

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



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Critics call design for £3m Bug a monster

CAMPAIGNERS desperate to save Dudley Hippodrome have branded its replacement as 'monstrous' and they have vowed to fight the £3 million Dudley Bug scheme.

Dudley Zoo has unveiled designs for a new education and conference centre aiming to pay homage to the town's prehistoric past.

It has been designed to recreate the famous Dudley Bug fossil shape. But campaigners said the futuristic Trilobite Building would look out of place shadowed by the 11th century Dudley Castle.

They threw back claims from officials that the Hippodrome was an 'eyesore' and a 'blight' on Castle Hill by rounding on the architecture of the planned multi-million pound centre.

Campaign chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said he feared the building would become a 'white elephant' for the town. "I think it looks monstrous and I can't quite believe they think this would be in keeping with the medieval castle," he said.

"The Hippodrome is a great example of an art deco styled building that fits in place with the buildings like the Station Hotel nearby."

He added: "It won't stop us. If anything, we want to show that we won't go away and that we will keep fighting. "They've not given permission to demolish it yet."

● Bug look – Page 10

Decision due on care home

ELDERLY residents will learn the fate of a care home in Dudley which has been threatened with closure by the end of the summer, bosses have said.

Campaigners have fought for the past two years to keep open New Bradley Hall care home, Kingswinford.

More than 5,000 people signed a petition and leading action group members Mac Scott and Phil Vanes have held talks with new Dudley adult social care boss, Councillor Dave Branwood.

A review into all adult social care is taking place.

Ex-mayor quits Tory post after downloading porn



Ray Burston – resigned

A COUNCILLOR who has stepped down from his role with Dudley's shadow cabinet after admitting using his council computer to download pornography has apologised for 'breaching' the trust of his constituents and colleagues.

Councillor Ray Burston, who is a former Mayor of Dudley, quit his post as Conservative spokesman for the environment at a meeting at Dudley Council on Monday night. He will continue to serve as a councillor in the Hayley Green and Cradley South ward.

Dudley's Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, said Council-

lor Burston retains the support of his colleagues and could have remained in his post.

In his statement read to the council chamber, Councillor Burston, said: "Whilst the images that have been downloaded are not of an illegal nature, such access, even so, constitutes a clear breach of the council's protocols governing the use of its IT equipment."

"Furthermore – and for me a matter of no lesser import – this access represents a breach of personal, political and religious beliefs that I hold dear and by which I have endeavoured to live my life. "As such, it is for me a matter of per-

sonal honour that I have also breached a trust that has been placed in me by the people of Hayley Green and Cradley South ward, who it is my privilege to represent. Therefore, I can only profoundly apologise to both them and to my council colleagues for my acts and omissions in the matter."

Conservative group leader Councillor Harley said Councillor Burston, who first served on Dudley Council from 1988 to 1996 and was re-elected in 2000, had his full support.

"Ray has voluntarily, with no pressure from myself or my deputy or his association, stepped down from the

shadow cabinet," he said. "He was offered our full support and could have continued in that role."

"He feels it's the right decision and I have to respect and support him for the manner in which he has dealt with it."

Councillor Harley added he did not feel the matter should be dealt with by the council's standards committee as any punishments would be 'inferior' to Councillor Burston's self-imposed resignation.

Council leader Councillor David Sparks said no further action could be taken, as Councillor Burston's actions had not broken the law.

Police have fears over home for children

A DERELICT pub in Quarry Bank will be transformed into a care home for children with learning disabilities – but police could stand in its way after raising safety concerns.

The Birch Coppice has been targeted by vandals and its car park used as a rat-run since it closed in 2010.

New owners CareTech Community Services have unveiled plans to convert it into a home for six children.

Earlier proposals for a three-bed care home and three 'independent living units' have been scrapped.

But West Midlands Police has raised fears for the safety of the children after revealing there were 41 crimes in the street in less than a year. Many were anti-social behaviour incidents.

Crime prevention design advisor Angela Hodggett said: "Between July 1 2012 and June 30, 41 incidents were recorded for Birch Coppice including several incidents of antisocial behaviour, theft of vehicles and damage to vehicles and neighbour disputes."

"Experience shows that vulnerable people can be the target of anti-social behaviour. This is more likely in an area where there has already been incidents of anti-social behaviour."

Planning agents CGP Partnership have submitted the application.

Man stabbed during row

A MAN was stabbed in the back a daylight attack in a quiet Stourbridge street.

The victim, who is in his 40s, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, after the assault in Cradley Street, Lye. Residents spoke of hearing an argument between two men outside a house near the junction with Cross Walks just before 9am Sunday.

The attacker is believed to have fled the scene. The man's injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. Witnesses should call police on 101.

TOO FEW NURSES AT RUSSELLS HALL

by Andrew Turton

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital has been ordered to improve after an investigation into high death rates revealed a series of failings.

A shortage of qualified nurse staff and a complainants procedure that was 'deemed not fit for purpose' were among the areas of concern in report by NHS medical director Sir Bruce Keogh.

He has demanded improvements at 14 hospital trusts across the country, including Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which manages Russells Hall Hospital.

Earlier reports suggested that there had been there were 1,235 excess deaths from June 2005 to November 2012 at the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with 222 in 2012 alone but the actual report published on Tuesday did not contain any figures.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced 11 of the 14 would be put in 'special measures' forcing them to team up with other NHS bodies.

But the trust, which manages Russells Hall, was not one of them as the health watchdog Monitor was 'confident' that its current management would be able to deliver changes.

One of biggest areas of concern highlighted in the Keogh report was 'inadequate



Russells Hall Hospital – 'inadequate qualified nurse staffing levels' on some wards, according to the report

qualified nurse staffing levels' on some wards.

Inspectors found nursing staffing problems on two large wards and called for this to be urgently reviewed by managers.

The report also found a shortfall in the trust's ability to learn from serious incidents and complaints made by patients.

It hit out at the hospitals trust's complaints process which was deemed 'not fit for purpose' and was 'inadequate' for responding for patients' needs.

Another area for urgent action focused on the hospital trust board. Sir Bruce found

that further work is needed to simplify the 'quality governance processes' and communicate with staff.

They also needed reviews to ensure that improvements were forthcoming.

The report did say that the trust was improving and there were a number of areas of 'good practice'.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clark today said the trust welcomed the review.

"The review team did not find any areas of major concern that warranted further escalation," she said.

"This is testament to the hard work and

commitment of all our staff and the pride they take in delivering the best possible care to our patients."

"The review has been one of the most far reaching and detailed reviews the trust has ever experienced and it gives us confidence that we are providing good quality of care, whilst recognising the areas where we can do better."

A detailed plan addressing each of the recommended actions in the report will be completed by the trust. A follow up review will be undertaken later this year.

● Not a surprise – Page 5



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Mugged widow 'robbed of confidence'

AN ELDERLY Coseley woman has spoken of her 'devastation' after being robbed by a crook who attacked her from behind.

The 80-year-old victim, who has asked not to be identified, described her ordeal as police released a CCTV image of the man they want to question after a spate of robberies.

The woman had walked to the bus stop, in Green Street, Coseley, when

she was shoved in the back and had her handbag snatched.

Police said the shocked widow watched helplessly as her attacker ran off and jumped into a car and drove off, as she was left clinging to a wall for support.

The woman said the thief had not only robbed her of her belongings but also her confidence.

"I was always so very full of confidence but just at the moment I've

lost it," she said. "I still go down the village but I'm very, very wary."

Police say the woman, who has lived in Coseley all her life, is one of eight pensioners, the oldest 92, targeted since April.

All were assaulted from behind and had their purses, bags or wallets snatched. Police described suspect as mixed race, aged between 25 and 30, around 5ft 8ins to 6ft, and sometimes wears a grey hoodie. He drove

off in a car similar to a silver Renault Megane or a silvery-green Ford Fusion, registration number BK03 XND, which was stolen from Dorothy Road, West Bromwich, in May. DC Caroline Morris said when brakes of the Fusion were applied, all the external lights came on.

Anyone with information should call her on 101.

A man has been arrested in connection with the robberies.

Building society branch to close

THE Sedgley branch of the Dudley Building Society is to close next month.

Chief executive Jeremy Wood said the branch in Dudley Street had been nearing the end of its lease and the society had chosen not to renew it.

"Its location was not ideal and it did not see the level of business that our other locations do," he added.

Members will be able to transfer to other branches. The society is spending hundreds of thousands of pounds modernising six of its branches in the Black Country and south Staffordshire.

The branch in Sedgley is to close on August 23 with all staff moving to other positions within the 155-year-old society.

The modernisation programme and the introduction of a new information technology system will also result in an extra six jobs over the next year.

The Gornal Wood branch has just been modernised and work on the flagship Dudley branch in Stone Street is due to start in September. The full programme taking in Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Perton branches, should be completed in two years.

Glass class for children

CRAFT and glass schools for aspiring artists will be set up at two Dudley borough museums this summer.

Young people can try their hand at engraving, painting and fusing glass at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone on July 31 and August 28.

A craft summer school will also take place on August 1, while craft sessions will be held at Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford on August 29.

All the schools run from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Children need to bring a packed lunch and a snack. Places need to be booked on 01384 815571.

New support

A SUPERMARKET in Dudley has named the Guide Dogs charity as its charity partner for the next 12 months. Sainsbury's at Merry Hill decided to support the cause following in-store and online nominations from customers.

A LANDMARK Quarry Bank pub is to be refurbished and extended under plans, after standing empty for more than two years.

Plans to revamp the Thorns pub, including an extension to create a new kitchen area, have been submitted to Dudley Council by Birmingham firm BS Enterprises.

The pub, in Thorns Road, was once one of the best-known in the Black Country for its mural of rock stars outside the building and garnering a series of awards for its carvery.

But the pub closed more than two years ago and has remained disused since despite frequent announcements the site was to be refurbished and reopened. It has been branded an eyesore by residents.

Under the new plans, the extension would also house a store, washing area, toilets and extra seating for customers.

There would also be a timber-decked children's play area to the rear and a seating area to the front of the building.

Covered

Trees and shrubs would be planted between the play area and rear of the site and all existing plants at the site would be retained.

A covered yard would be demolished to make way for the new extension if the scheme is approved by the development control committee.

Lye councillor Tremain Herbert said it would be a major boost to the area to have the pub refurbished. "It has been empty for a couple of years and has fallen into a dilapidated condition," she said.

"It is real shame because the pub used to do so well.

"I know it was well used by the people of Lye and Quarry Bank.

"There are so many pubs standing empty in the borough; it is excellent to hear this one could be getting a new lease of life."

The site has been empty since January 2011 when former owners Marston's Brewery reclaimed the pub from previous licensee Paul Skitt.

Snap that gave Charlotte the hump



Before the weight loss - Charlotte Tibbetts on holiday



After dieting - Charlotte today having lost 5st

IT'S a thought which does not cross our minds - but for overweight Charlotte Tibbetts, it was suddenly her greatest fear.

When husband Shaun planned a wedding anniversary holiday to Egypt, the 42-year-old was terrified she would be too big to fit in the aeroplane seat.

Living on a daily diet of chocolate, sweets and alcohol, Charlotte had ballooned to a size 20, tipping the scales at 15st 7lbs, since her wedding day two years before.

Swapping her fat diet of chips, burgers and doughnuts for chicken salad, fruit and fish, Charlotte

transformed her body shape in just 18 months. Today, she weighs 10st 7lbs having shed a huge five stone.

"It was shortly after my first wedding anniversary, I should have been so happy but I'd hit an all-time low," she said.

"I couldn't look in the mirror without crying and I felt uncomfortable leaving the house, withdrawing from my social life and falling into a deep depression.

"Shaun had been talking about going to Egypt for our second anniversary and all I could think about was that photo of me on a camel in Tunisia. Plus, when you're

worried you're too big to fit into an aeroplane seat, you know you have to do something about your weight."

Taking on a new eating plan, she began eating filling foods like pasta, rice, potatoes and lean meat and fish. She said: "I can't believe I did it, but I did, and anyone else can - it has changed my life for the better."

Charlotte, who runs Charlotte's Coaching and Counselling, in New Pool Road, Cradley Heath, now helps others.

She has taken over a Slimming World group based in Lye, which meets at the Salvation Army in High Street every Wednesday at 7.30pm.

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Race for Life runs up total £135,000

MORE than £135,000 is expected to be raised from a Race for Life event near Dudley which attracted thousands of women.

Around 3,000 fundraisers turned out for the extravaganza at Himley Park on Sunday.

Two 5km races took place, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, to bring in cash for Cancer Research UK.

Organisers said 2,000 women had taken part in the morning event, around 200 more than expected.

And around 1,000 participated in the afternoon race – slightly fewer than expected which organisers said was probably due to the scorching temperatures.

Great

Spokeswoman Sarah Southall said they expected around £135,000 to come in from sponsorship not all had yet been received so an exact figure could not be announced yet.

"It was a really great event," she said. "The weather was with us and everyone came together to fight cancer."

More than 60 vintage motors from Jaguars to Ford Escorts were at Dudley Castle for the annual West Midlands Classic Car Club show on Sunday.

Organiser and club chairman Maurice Cole, of Dudley, brought along his 1972 E-type Jaguar, a rare 1961 Daimler Dart and a 1977 Rolls Royce.

Honour for group's work

VOLUNTEERS from a Lye charity have received recognition from the Mayor of Dudley.

Councillor Alan Finch welcomed the Apni Zaroorat Community Network to the Mayor's Parlour to present signed certificates to recognise their hard work.

Volunteers aim to improve the quality of lives for women, young people and families by reducing isolation, encouraging active participation and providing information and support.

Councillor Finch said: "Their efforts over the last six years have been fantastic, and I'm sure they will continue this excellent community work."

The group's name translates as 'Our Needs'. For details, visit www.azcn.org.

Smiles all round as MP opens new post office



Chris Kelly cuts the ribbon with subpostmaster Nick Singh

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly cut the ribbon at the official opening of a new-look post office in Brierley Hill.

He was joined by subpostmaster Nick Singh at the launch of the Merry Hill Centre branch on Friday (July 12).

The Conservative MP said: "I'm delighted to officially open the new Merry Hill Centre Post Office."

"Nick and his team are to be congratulated on their work to develop the new branch, which will make a real difference for local residents and small business customers. I wish them every

success with the venture." The new branch has two screened and three open plan counter positions, as well as a Post Office serving point that doubles up as a retail counter – a new concept for the newly-independent company.

Delight

Opening hours at the branch, which relocated in June, have been extended by 15 hours to include Sundays.

Mr Singh, who hosted the official opening, said: "I was delighted to have the opportunity to modernise the Post

Office and very pleased to be re-launching it today for the community."

"I know customers will like the new environment and I'd like to thank Mr Kelly for coming."

Post Office area manager Caroline Pritchard added: "We understand how important having a post office is to residents in this area and we are confident that this new modern post office service will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future."

Findings not a surprise, says father whose daughter died

CAMPAIGNERS have voiced their concerns after it emerged hundreds of patients may have died needlessly at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is also now calling for answers after saying he had been worried about a 'deeper problem' after being contacted by patients and families.

It was widely reported this week that NHS medical director Prof Sir Bruce Keogh would reveal that there were 1,235 excess deaths from June 2005 to November 2012 at the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with 222 in 2012 alone.

Failings at the hospital were highlighted following the death of a woman whose care was described as falling 'far short of what she had every right to expect'.

Wendy Nock, aged 35, who had spina bifida, died from an intestinal obstruction eight days after being admitted to the hospital in September 2009.

Although an inquest ruled that she died from her medical conditions, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain criticised the hospital for a 'lack of continuity of care'.

He said that there had been a 'consistent failing among different departments and a number of different staff'.

Similar

An independent review concluded that if a CT scan had been carried out, she would probably have survived.

Stephen Dorrell, head of a Commons select committee, said her death was avoidable, saying the care she received was 'far short of what she had every right to expect'.

Mrs Nock's father Harold Nock, aged 64, of Birmingham New Road, Dudley, who said no staff have been held to account, is suing the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

He said he was not surprised by the report into failings at the site from June 2005 to November 2012 and called for a more thorough investigation looking at older cases.

"I have been contacted by so many people who have similar concerns about the hospital," he said. "I think the investigation needs to go back further. They haven't gone back far enough in my opinion."

The hospital admitted that there were issues with the recording of fluid intake and output on some nursing documentation, which chief executive Paula Clark had said was 'unacceptable'.



Harold Nock with a photograph of his daughter, Wendy

Elaine Weston, aged 54, of Swan Street, Pensnett, has campaigned for better care at Russells Hall Hospital since the death of her daughter Kelly in 2009.

She died from septicaemia caused by pneumonia after being admitted to hospital for severe mouth ulcers. She left behind a daughter, Jessica, then aged eight.

Mrs Weston told an inquest on her daughter that staff had failed to protect her after a dramatic weight loss up to her death which, she claims, impacted on her immune system. She added: "I thought my case was a one-off, but when I heard about others and then saw this report it is apparent that something is wrong."

"We need a change in how this place is run – things just aren't good enough right now."

At the inquest, Black Country coroner



Kelly Weston who died in 2009 while at Russells Hall Hospital

Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of death by natural causes.

Mr Austin said he was keen to find out what had happened at the hospital and what action would be taken.

"I welcomed this inquiry because I was always worried whether individual cases I took up on behalf of constituents indicated a deeper problem."

Urgent

"I worked with residents and met Bruce Keogh personally to provide detailed accounts of the treatment they and their families had received and I asked his team to meet local people and listen to them directly."

"I want an urgent meeting with senior managers and governors at the hospital. "As I have been saying for some time, we

need to know exactly what has been happening and what the Department of Health and the hospital will be doing about it," the Labour MP added.

The leader of Dudley Council said the report would have to be taken seriously. Councillor David Sparks said: "I was surprised at the figures but I take them seriously and I would expect the scrutiny board will have a good look at them."

The hospital trust is one of 14 across the country that between them are said to have been responsible for up to 13,000 'excess deaths' since 2005.

Campaigner Julie Bailey, who founded the Cure the NHS group after her mother Bella died after being dropped by staff at Stafford Hospital, said there were tragic stories behind the numbers in the report.

NEWS

in brief

Free wellbeing checks for dogs

DOG owners in Dudley can bring their pooches along for a free wellbeing check when staff from the PDSA visits the borough from July 23 to 26.

A veterinary nurse will examine the weight, body shape, teeth, eyes, coat and general fitness of canine visitors aboard the PetCheck vehicle from 9am to 4pm.

Sessions will be on July 23 at Hope Centre car park, Andrew Road, High Fields Estate, Halesowen, on July 24 at Arley and Compton Court, Baptist End Road, Netherton, on July 25 at Claverley Court, Vicarage Prospect, Dudley, and on July 26 at Chapel Street Estate, Lower Derry Street, Brierley Hill.

New luxury £30k car is stolen

A NEW £30,000 car has been stolen from Clent, near Stourbridge. The black Mercedes C220 estate, registration GY13 MVL, was in a secure garage, in Bromsgrove Road.

The car was about three weeks old. An iPhone was also taken. Officers believe it was taken between 9.30pm on Saturday, July 6 and 10am the next day. Police said the garage doors had been forced and the keys to the car stolen.

Pc Matt Brittain, of West Mercia Police, asked anyone who saw anything unusual or suspicious to call 101 or 0800 555111.

Car wash cleans up for charities

CHARITIES being supported by Dudley's Mayor are set to clean up at a charity car wash.

Bosses at F1 Hand Car Wash and Valeting Service, in Wellington Road, Dudley, are offering to donate the day's takings on Saturday. Drivers will be able to get a basic clean for £2.50 between 9am and 6pm. All proceeds will be split between Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Dudley's White House Cancer Support. Money will also go to the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Suicide-threat woman rescued

FIREFIGHTERS used a platform to rescue a woman threatening to jump from a multi-storey car park in Halesowen.

Fire crews and police were called to help the woman at the Asda car park in Queensway just after 9pm last Wednesday. She had climbed onto the wall of the fourth storey.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SUMMER puzzle. How early do you have to get to the pub before the beer garden fills up with pensioners? Some of them in my local look as though they have been left out overnight.

□□□□□□□□

ON the process of getting old, a reader offers this prayer: "Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference."

□□□□□□□□

WHAT do you call a customer who natters into her mobile phone at the supermarket check-out? Yet when a Sainsbury's check-out lady in south London asked the customer to finish her phone call before she would operate the till, the customer complained and the supermarket apologised and gave her a £10 voucher. But as the social-networks erupted with support for the check-out lady, Sainsbury's seemed to develop some backbone. It is now supporting its worker and has welcomed a "wider debate on politeness." We don't really need a wider debate. Talking to a third party while expecting someone to serve you is rude.

□□□□□□□□

"THESE smaller 'rat like' dogs look no more than a light snack to them." Dog owner emailing Sky News to explain why a Staffordshire bull terrier bit the head off a Pomeranian in Warrington.

□□□□□□□□

IT IS reported that a room in the European Parliament may be named after Margaret Thatcher. No, not that room. Actually, it might be an idea to name the WC after the late baroness. They could call it the Not for Turning Ladies.

□□□□□□□□

WELL, knock me down with a ballot paper. It is alleged that the candidate-selection process in Falkirk may have been (you had better sit down before reading the next bit) nobbled. What's that? You are not surprised or even remotely shaken? No, me neither. This is probably because the selection of parliamentary candidates by political parties is often nobbled. There was a time when Old Harry, having served the party and the community faithfully as parish, town and county councillor for 20 years, would duly be offered the chance to stand as MP. These days, Old Harry is shoved aside as someone's husband, wife, lover or aide is parachuted in from Whitehall. Failing that, Old Harry is told, tough luck old boy, but it's going to be an all-female shortlist. Or perhaps the party decides it needs a candidate "to reflect the wider community". So Old Harry is again passed over, this time for a transgender Welsh-speaking amputee from Ecuador who doesn't actually know where the constituency is but ticks all the boxes at central office. The golden rule is that under no circumstances must the people of the constituency be allowed to choose their own candidate. The system was rotten long before the Falkirk row came along. Which is why, while Labour and Unite snarl at each other and the Tories make a big thing of it all, cynical Old Britain merely heaves a weary sigh.

□□□□□□□□

LAST month it was £30 billion. Last week the Government announced it was £42 billion. This week Boris Johnson says it'll probably be £70 billion. The fastest thing about that unwanted, unnecessary, unaffordable white elephant known as HS2 is the cost. Judging by cost-inflation on other big projects, even Boris's forecast may prove far too low. How long before the bill for transporting people from London to Birmingham a mere 20 minutes earlier than at present passes £100 billion? Will no-one stop this madness?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Air cadets tee up a day of golfing



Mark Butler, right standing, with the air cadets at their golfing day

AIR cadets got into the swing of things during a golfing day in Dudley. A group of 40 youngsters from the 347 Dudley Squadron, aged between 12 and 18, received free professional training at the Sedgley Golf Centre, Sandyfields Road.

Mark Butler, the centre's academy director, who coached the group with fellow PGS professional Richard Challoner, said: "For many of them it was the first time they had played."

"They were fantastic and the response from the kids was great."

"Many wanted to come back in their own time. We are trying to get

different groups and different people taking up golf."

"I think it's important to promote the message that golf isn't just for old people, because of what the sport can teach you."

"We've got a great etiquette in the game and it brings discipline to kids. "It also brings kids and parents together through sport, which is what we're all about."

Mr Butler, aged 39, who recently became head professional at Penn Golf Club, Wolverhampton, said he was looking to book similar sessions with other local organisations, including scout and guide groups.

Supporters of rail car rally behind inventor

FORMER workers and friends of a trouble-hit engineering company facing closure over a £70,000 VAT debt are rallying behind the firm's boss as he battles to keep it open.

Parry & Associates, which designed the rail cars used on the shuttle service between Stourbridge Junction and Town train stations, is appealing against a High Court decision to wind up the Cradley Heath based firm.

Company chairman John Parry, who was so annoyed when the ruling was announced last week he took his shirt off in protest in court, accusing his bank of taking everything from him, says he is desperately trying to save the firm and the 12 jobs based there.

Tragedy

Besides designing the Parry People Mover rail cars, the company also invented a machine that makes concrete without using electricity, which now helps developing countries across the world in construction projects.

And former employee Steve Raggett, of Turl's Hill Road, on the Sedgley border with Colesey, said: "What Parry & Associates is doing is so worthwhile - and for them to be in trouble is an absolute tragedy."

"It makes me very angry that large banks get bailed out by the taxpayers' expense but small to medium sized enterprises like Parry & Associates are allowed to sink. It's an absolute scandal."

Mr Raggett, aged 61, who worked for Parry & Associates from 1988 to 2003 and now runs a boarding kennel, added: "If it closed it would be a tragic waste of an invention that has made a big difference to some of the poorest parts of the world."

Ken and Maureen Williams, of Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis,



John Parry, left, with chairman of Parry Associates with a Parry's People Mover tram and supporters and employees, from left, Maureen and Ken Williams, Margaret Macey, Steve Raggett and Scruffy, the dog

who are weekly users of the Parry People Mover to go Stourbridge to do their shopping, have also spoken out in favour of the company staying open.

Mr Williams, a retired steelworker, 71, said: "I'm not happy about the court ruling to wind up the company."

"We are big fans of the Parry People Mover, which is reliable."

Mr Parry said that while the company awaits an appeal hearing against the winding up order, he is negotiating with HSBC bank in a bid to reinstate a £54,000 overdraft for sister firm Parry People Movers, which was withdrawn after shareholders raised £70,000. The cash, earmarked to pay off the VAT debt to bail out Parry & Associates, was soaked up when the overdraft was stopped.

He added: "I am grateful for the support of shareholders, staff, former workers and friends."

Parry & Associates shareholder Margaret Macey, aged 59, from Halesowen, said: "John will fight to the bitter end, and if anyone can save the company he will."

An insolvency judge approved the winding up bid from HM Revenue and Customs for the company at a High Court hearing in London.

The case followed an earlier decision, which gave the transport firm a further stay of execution from the closure bid from the HM Revenue & Customs. The firm was given until July 8 to pay off its VAT bill.

The company recently completed deals for up to £30,000 of machines for the construction industry in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Farming bowling for crash

RADIO presenters will lock horns with bank workers during a farm-themed fancy dress cricket match being played in Stourbridge to raise money for charity.

Teams from Barclays' three Stourbridge branches and 102.5 The Bridge will face one another at Stourbridge Cricket Club on Tuesday (July 23).

They are hoping to raise around £1,000 for The Geoff Hill Charitable Trust, which helps various local causes.

The bank has agreed to match the total figure.

Mark Ashbourne, grants and sponsorships officer at the cricket club, said: "Over the years the trust has given us money and other items."

"Because of the economy they haven't got as much money to give out as they used to, so even £100 could be the difference between them continuing and folding, which we don't want to see happen."

"This will be a fun way to raise money for a worthy cause."

The public match takes place at the cricket club, on High Street, at 6.30pm.

Spectators will also be able to enjoy music from the radio station, as well as a barbecue and raffle.

Spa and gym ready to go

A GYM and spa will be opened at a golf club near Dudley at the end of the month, creating three jobs.

Bosses at Halfpenny Green Golf Club, Swindon, have invested tens of thousands of pounds renovating and equipping the old club house for the Halfpenny Health Club & Spa when it opens on July 28.

It will host a Zumbathon and spa sessions at the opening at 2pm. Tickets are £5. Proceeds will go to the British Heart Foundation.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale will take place in Hagley on Saturday. Books, jewellery, bric-a-brac and collectables will be on offer at the event, which will be from 10.30am to midday. For details of the venue and table hire call 01384 375832.

Have a coffee

THE Hagley branch of the Mothers' Union is inviting people to a coffee morning today (Thursday) at St Saviour's Hall, Hagley from 10.45am. Entrance is £1.

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Motorist in chase hit speeds of 80mph

A BANNED driver, who led police on a three-mile, high-speed in the Black Country, chase weeks after being freed from jail, has been sent back for 14 months.

John Field, who had a conviction for dangerous driving, cut corners and went the wrong way round traffic islands. He reached 80mph in a 40mph zone, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

He was in a BMW he had bought for £300, Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said.

Field then lost control, demolished a garden wall and careered into a Rover parked on the drive of a house in Wollescote Road, Cradley, the court was told.

The 24-year-old had earlier tried to steal a satellite navigation system from a BMW at motor company in Station Road, Old Hill.

Field caused £640 damage smashing the back window and trying to remove the sat nav motor, Mr Searle said.

Hours later police spotted him acting suspiciously in Chapel House Lane, Halesowen, and the chase started when he sped off.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said Field bought the car at auction and had in-ended it for his girlfriend.

Field, of no fixed address, admitted dangerous driving, attempted theft from a car and driving while banned. He was jailed for 14 months.

Pub venture for brewers

TWO neighbouring Black Country breweries have teamed up to open their first pub together.

Chris Sadler of Sadler's Ales, Lye, and David Craddock, of Craddock's Brewery, Stourbridge, have set up Two Thirsty Brewers to run the old King Charles II restaurant in New Street, Worcester, as a traditional pub. Mr Sadler managing director of Sadler's said: "We have a similar vision."

Two Thirsty Brewers is also working to re-open the Bridgnorth Brewery.

Bookings soon

A £3.5 million hotel in Dudley which will create 35 jobs is less than a week away from opening. Workers have finished building the 63-bedroom Premier Inn in Castlegate Business Park and bosses hope it will be open on Monday.

Dealers who rammed police vehicle jailed



Chaudary Shaban – driver

TWO drug dealers who were found with more than 250 wraps of cocaine and heroin worth nearly £6,000 when they rammed a police car after being snared in a sting operation have been jailed for a more than seven years.

Chaudary Shaban and Morrad Hussain were dealing from a stolen Volkswagen Golf, in Baptist End Road, Dudley, when police spotted them. Police had pulled up in front of the car when the driver Shaban accelerated towards them.

Mr Darron Whitehead, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court when Shaban realised he was 'not going to win the battle', he reversed and sped away. But the dealers found themselves in a dead end in Bank Road.

Hussain, of Himley Road, Dudley, ran away and was not arrested until weeks later. Shaban,

aged 35, of Corbett Street, Smethwick, was still in the car when officers swooped on January 6.

Some 61 wraps of heroin and 68 of crack cocaine were stashed in the car, while another 92 had been thrown into bushes. A stun gun was also discovered in the car, along with £761.

DNA from a pair of trainers left behind led police to Hussain, and when they raided his home on February 21 another 10 heroin wraps and 11 cocaine wraps were under his bed.

Paid

A total of £12,500 was spread across the seven-bedroom property, but Hussain denied this was his. In total 173 crack cocaine wraps and 79 of heroin were found in the pair's possession.

Shaban, who has two children, told police he was a paid driver for a drug dealer, but insisted

the drugs were not his, the court heard. Mr Earl Pinnock, defending Shaban, said his client 'accepted his situation' and knew he faced jail.

Hussain, 29, had fled with the drugs found under his bed but he did not accept responsibility for the cash, Mr Simon Rippon, defending, said.

Shaban admitted possession with intent to supply of heroin and cocaine, with dangerous driving and possession of a prohibited weapon.

Hussain admitted two charges of possessing heroin with intent to supply and two of possessing cocaine with intent to supply.

Shaban was jailed for 45 months for the drugs offences, and three months each for the stun gun and driving. Hussain got 30 months for the initial drugs charges and a further six months relating to drugs in his home.

Family's fury at hit-and-run driver who left dead cyclist

Store banks on shoppers to help out



Anne Danks, left, from the Trussell Trust, Shane Green, services manager, and community champion Sue Goodby

A SUPERMARKET in Dudley called on its customers to give generously, as part of its food bank drive.

The Tesco Extra store on Burnt Tree set up the collection point for two days in a bid to help local people struggling to afford meals.

Organisers asked customers to buy something extra during their shop to hand over for the bank. The store will donate an extra 30 per cent of everything collected.

The supermarket has teamed up with the Trussell Trust Food bank to

run the scheme, and all donations are distributed amongst local food banks. Communities manager Shane Green said: "We have already had the food banks come and pick up some of the donations. I know they will be given to local families who are struggling to put food on the table."

This is not the first time the supermarket has run the scheme.

In November it collected 4,000 meals worth of donations for local food banks.

People have donated a variety of items, including tins, UHT milk, pasta

sauces and rice.

Mr Green said: "We are well on our way to exceeding the numbers of meals we raised last year, and we are very grateful to all our customers for their donations."

Those who use food banks are referred by a range of professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, Citizens Advice Bureau staff, welfare officers, probation workers and teachers. They are given vouchers to collect meals for their family.

THE wife and son of a keen cyclist killed in a hit-and-run smash have spoken of their anger at the driver who fled the scene, leaving him lying dead in the road.

Retired printer George Searle, aged 74, of Gornal, Dudley, who died at the scene of the collision in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, was looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild in November.

His wife of 43 years, Cynthia, aged 68, said: "We are very angry that someone could take the life of a much-loved husband and father and just leave him, not knowing if he was dead or alive."

"We believe he died instantly and wouldn't have known anything about it."

The couple's son, David, aged 33, and daughter-in-law, Alison, 32, of Coseley, are expecting their first child and are pleased they had been able to tell Mr Searle that his first grandchild will be a girl.

Darlaston-born Mr Searle, who later lived with his wife in Hill Top, West Bromwich, had cycled all his life and, on Thursday, he set off on one of his regular rides at about 9.15am.

Sick

Mrs Searle rang David when her husband had not returned home by 2.30pm.

He checked the Express & Star website and saw that a cyclist had been injured on one of his father's favourite routes at about 12.30pm.

"I felt sick because it must be my dad and my wife Alison began telephoning local hospitals," said David.

He added: "He was the best dad you could ever wish for - and an old-fashioned gentleman."

The couple's 38-year-old



George Searle – killed

daughter Jane, of Handsworth Wood, flew back from her holiday in Rhodes after hearing the news.

Mrs Searle said she wanted to thank passers-by who tried to help her husband after the crash.

Mr Searle, a former typesetter and compositor, had recently discussed giving up cycling because of heavy traffic on the roads and several near misses.

"I wish I'd made him do that," said Mrs Searle.

Her husband used to be a member of the Hill Top Cycling Club and in the past had raced against Wolverhampton legend Hugh Porter.

Following the tragedy police recovered a black Seat Leon car from a garage in Crown Street, Wolverhampton. Two men from Wolverhampton, one aged 30 and the other aged 33, have been arrested and bailed.

NEWS

in brief

Swim sessions for youngsters

YOUNGSTERS are being encouraged to take the plunge with intensive swimming lessons at Dudley Leisure Centre.

Staff at the Wellington Road centre in have organised intensive swimming lessons for children aged five and over from August 19 to 23. The 30-minute sessions will run at 9am, 9.30am, 10am and 10.30am. There is a fee.

Culture councillor Tracy Wood said: "This is a great opportunity for youngsters to improve their confidence and technical skills."

Poster reveals contact details

AN online resource helping residents in Dudley raise issues with their councillors has gone live.

Dudley Council has unveiled a poster with contact numbers for every member and information on ways people can raise issues with the council, including through Twitter, Facebook and community forums. The poster is available at www.dudley.gov.uk/about/councillors/councillors-poster/

Activity planned for the holidays

A RANGE of summer children's activities are being planned at Dudley Leisure Centre during the school summer holidays.

The centre, in Wellington Road, will be holding activity sessions for children, aged eight to 14, every Tuesday to Thursday starting on July 30. Staff have also laid on sports coaching sessions.

Day-long sessions cost £15 and youngsters should bring lunch and refreshments. Call 01384 812800.

Hats off for fun at ales festival

A SILLY hat competition will form part of the fun at this year's Dudley Winter Ales Fair.

It will be held in Dudley Town Hall, St James's Road from November 28 to 30. On the Saturday there will be a £10 beer voucher at stake for the silliest hat.

There will also be a breweriana auction on the Saturday at 2.15pm in aid of two local charities.

Conservation call

The Friends of Wren's Nest Nature Reserve are a conservation volunteer event at the site from 9.30am on August 15. Places need to be booked on 01384 812785.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

MAYBE it's a consequence of spending too long in the sun, but I feel a tinge of sympathy for the MP who claimed £1,000 off the taxpayer for help with his expenses claims.

Joe Benton, Labour MP for Bootle, claimed for IT assistance because the Parliamentary watchdog insisted all claims should be processed by computer.

Mr Benton, who is 79, said he was not computer literate, leading to howls of derision that he is 'out of touch'. But why is it taken for granted these days that everybody is a cyber-whizz?

By admitting he struggles with technology, Mr Benton has demonstrated he is just an ordinary 79-year-old bloke.

Which surely makes him more in touch with voters than the mass of policy wonks and career politicians who seem to populate Westminster these days.

□□□□□□

MEANWHILE, former Mayor of Dudley Councillor Ray Burston has resigned from the authority's shadow cabinet after revealing he used his council computer to download pornography.

Perhaps he should have had called for some advice.

□□□□□□

AFTER a few years in well-deserved obscurity, loveable former Apprentice candidate Katie Hopkins has crawled out of the woodwork again.

Her latest contribution has been an article in a tabloid newspaper entitled: Why women hate Katherine Jenkins. But do they?

According to Hopkins, the Welsh singer has 'blonde hair, puppy-dog eyes', a 'simpling smile and eye lashes stolen from the nearest available Guernsey cow'.

And if that's not enough reason to hate someone, what is?

For the uninitiated, highlights of Katie's appearance on the Apprentice involved a feud with fellow candidate Adam Hosker, for having the temerity to be born north of Watford, branding another one of her colleagues 'a dog', and sneering at the dress sense of the eventual winner, Kristina Grimes.

She was also pictured romping half-naked in a field, and in a special touch of class, she boasted on her CV about an affair with a married man.

I can understand why Katie Hopkins might hate the successful, attractive and popular – not to mention fabulously wealthy – Katherine Jenkins, I'm just not convinced the feeling is universal.

Now if the article was entitled Why Everyone Hates Katie Hopkins...



One of the rehung bells in the belfry at Christ Church, Lye



The 200-year-old bell tower



Restored bells featuring new wheels, clappers and headstocks

Hard work means bells ring out again

A routine check set into motion a project to save a unique set, as **PETER MADELEY** found out

IT has taken almost four years of hard work, but parishioners in Lye can celebrate a towering achievement after the unique set of bells at their church were restored to their former glory.

The bells first summoned worshippers to Christ Church in High Street almost 130 years ago, but they have rarely been used in recent times due to their poor state of repair.

But now, in the year the church celebrates its bicentennial, the peal of eight bells can once again be heard ringing out across Lye.

The project started in June 2009 when a committee was set up to look at the possibility of restoring the bells to full working order and improving the condition of the tower in which they are housed.

Consisting of six church members and two conscripts from the Worcestershire & District Change Ringing Association (W&DCRA), the committee launched a campaign in early in 2010 which raised more than £30,000.

Danger

Chairman Bob Field, aged 76, explained: "For some years the local ringing association had been saying work was needed on the bells to restore them for operational use. Then, during a routine inspection of the belfry, the church architect noticed the steel frame supporting the bells was badly corroded.

"There was a real danger that the entire tower was becoming unsafe."

The committee set about raising the funds to complete the work, and secured grants totalling £13,000 from the W&DCRA, the Garfield Weston Trust and the Landfill Communities Fund.



Bob Field in the ringing chamber of Christ Church before it was refurbished

A further £18,000 was raised locally through donations and a range of events including skittle evenings and quiz nights. The work, which included fitting new clappers, headstocks and wheels to suit the size of the bells, was carried out by specialist bell hangers Matthew Higby of Bath.

David Chiswell, 65, a member of the W&DCRA's belfry advisory panel, has been a driving force behind the project having completed a similar restoration at St Giles, Rowley Regis.

He said: "This type of restoration does not come cheap, and the bulk of the money was raised was spent on getting the bells in a state to be rung."

Mr Field added: "We were able to save quite a lot of money by doing jobs ourselves that did not require the expertise of a bell hanger."

"Although David has more than 50

years experience as a bell ringer, his construction skills certainly came in handy when replacing the floor joists and the ceiling."

The bells, which were cast in 1883 at the Van Aerschodt foundry in Leuven, Belgium, were installed in 1885.

Each bell has a Christian virtue inscribed on its waist: Joy/Peace (which features on two bells), Patience, Wisdom, Love, Truth, Hope and Faith.

The first account of the bells being rung was given in the County Express dated November 28, 1885, which states: "The bells were rung before and after the service on Thursday evening by the Brierley Hill ringers..." They experienced some difficulty at first, but soon got into the swing."

Mr Field says the bells are highly unusual in terms of change ringing – the practice of ringing a set of tuned bells in

a series of mathematical patterns that first became popular in the 17th century. "They are unique," he says. "There is no other set of Belgian bells in the country used for change ringing, and maybe not anywhere in the world."

Mr Chiswell adds: "The bells are amongst the lightest in the world as far as church or tower bells are concerned. "They are of great historical value and should be cherished and preserved."

The final stage of the project was completed in June when students from Sandwell College redecorated the interior of the ringing chamber.

Mike Barnbrook, head of construction at the college and a parishioner at Christ Church, said: "It is fantastic experience for our students to be involved in this project. "I have been in the trade for 30 years and I can't remember ever painting anything like this."

For Mr Field, the restoration of the bells was something of a labour of love.

Practise

"The main reason I got involved is because I am keen to preserve the historical past," he says.

"In recent years we have lost the altar, the pulpit and fonts from the church, so I was determined not to see the bells going the same way."

The bells were officially rededicated at a service in January, and the church is planning a celebratory peal in September featuring bell ringers from the Stourbridge area.

The Rev Simon Falshaw, 52, says he would like the church to have its own team of bell ringers. "It's not a simple pastime and it takes a lot of practise, but I would love for us to be able to build up a local team," he says.

"I am very grateful for the hard work put in by everyone involved and I must say the project has been a great success."

"The bells are such a loud musical instrument with a really unique sound, and I think the people of the town like the fact that we have them at the church."

"Lye is known for its balti houses, but now we've got bells as well."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A SHOCK report on limestone workings in the Black Country showed that conditions were far worse than anyone had feared. Council chiefs estimated the cost of safety work on the labyrinth of caverns under Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley could be £100m.

PLANNERS in South Staffordshire gave the go-ahead to a controversial £1m scheme to drill for oil and gas in the hamlet of Calf Heath. Residents had opposed the scheme, saying it could lead to a "miniature Dallas" on their doorstep.

A BUS driver turned his double-decker into an ambulance when one of his passengers was taken ill. Driver John Wilkinson drove the crowded number 74 bus to Sandwell District General Hospital after a woman collapsed on route to

1993...

A DIABETIC boy sparked a massive police search after he ran away from school to avoid detention. More than 30 officers joined the search for the 12-year-old who was eventually found in Beatties in Wolverhampton.

FOUR new stamps were launched at the Black Country Museum in Dudley to mark a milestone in canal history. The Royal Mail unveiled the stamps to commemorate the bicentenary of Britain's inland waterways.

A WOLVERHAMPTON artist took a step back in time to the Wars of the Roses in a specially-commissioned mural for Warwick Castle. Adrian Clamp's depiction of the eve of the Battle of Barnet in 1471 was put on display at an outdoor site in the castle grounds.

2003...

TWO FORMER comrades-in-arms were reunited after reading an article in the Express & Star. George Jones of Kingswinford met up with his wartime friend Albert Isaac who he had not seen for 51 years.

WOLVES fan, Odin Henrikssen from Norway, travelled more than 1,000 miles and drove over seven hours to see the team train. Odin, who travelled with his wife Gjertrud and sons Jonas, nine and Fredrik, five, all clad in Wolves shirts, was here on his summer holidays.

EIGHTEEN-year-old Russel Harrold became one of the youngest musicians in the country to be appointed as musical director for a show. The teenager landed the role to direct Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company's performance of 42nd Street at the Grand Theatre.



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Express & Star

LETTERS

Forget tourism, people want shops

ANOTHER week, another proposed closure in Dudley town. This time it's WH Smith, a massive blow to our once proud town, this is on top of Thomas Cook and Stuart Henry shutting in King Street.

It's 25 years since Merry Hill opened and still the council has no plan for the town. Promise after promise but nothing ever happens. Forget tourism, people want decent shops. There has been too much emphasis on the market regeneration and not enough on keeping the few decent shops we have left by cleaning up the environment

around them for shoppers. If cheaper rates and free parking was introduced, this would help these businesses' stay and this would improve the chances of attracting more decent shops.

Another regeneration officer, but it's the same old message as the previous one. As other towns listen to its residents views, our council shuns its own shoppers and traders because they are not interested in Dudley competing with Westfield's Brierley Hill. It's no coincidence that since Dudley lost main town status in 2008 the place has been left in free fall. The people of Dudley are

proud and have been let down by career councillors who don't deserve their vote. After years of Tory ruling in the borough I was expecting a change in direction from the Labour party, but it is following the plan that the previous council were following running the retail side down to the gutter.

I welcome the college development and hope we do have a supermarket sooner rather than later but its 10 years too late in my view. Oh yes, save the Hippodrome!

STEPHEN BRISCOE
Dudley Regeneration group

Consider the Hippodrome

AT some point someone thought it was a great idea to paint the chairlift at Dudley Zoo yellow; and officials agreed.

Also, at some point, someone thought it was a great idea to paint the front entrance to the zoo green; and officials agreed.

More recently, however, officials seem to be embracing the power of nostalgia to encourage the growth of tourism to the castle and zoo and are reversing these hastily decisions by firstly returning the chairlift to its original colour, and now currently working to remove all traces of the grisly green.

So, to the minority who think demolishing the Hippodrome would be a great idea, I suggest that it may be fruitful in many years to come to consider the options provided by campaigners.

It would be such a shame to look back on the loss of such an historic and iconic building with regret, at a time when a new lick of paint in a different colour will not be enough to reverse the damage done!

LORRAINE TAYLOR
Kates Hill
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Another bin will be plastic monstrosity

DUDLEY councillors plan to replace black bin bags with yet another large plastic monstrosity which will sit on people's drives adding to the green bins making our homes look like Steptoe and Son's yard? Yet another plastic bin!

I live in a house which has no direct access to the side or back of the property and this ugly edifice will have to reside along with its equally ugly counterpart the green bin at the front of my house! Now the council is saying that this method is more efficient and cost effective! Really?

At the moment I have 52 black plastic bags delivered to my address. Each week on one evening I secure a bag of rubbish and leave it at the end of my driveway. The next morning the refuse collectors come along and pick it up and throw it into the refuse collection vehicle. No problem.

Now, the council is saying I should fill a plastic bin and it is cost effective for that bin to be manhandled into the specially adapted carrier which then deposits the contents into the vehicle. I will have to put all my rubbish into a black plastic bag - I then put it into the new plastic bin and the refuse collectors then empty the bin! Is this efficiency?

The bin is then left anywhere in the road, especially on pavements which obstructs pedestrians until the owners can remove it and remember the majority go out to work.

S FOX, Halesowen

We don't need speedway here

AS someone who lives within a stone's throw of Caste Gate, I for one fully support Dudley Council's rejection of plans for a speedway stadium in the vicinity and with it, the inevitable noise and traffic nuisance it would bring.

I note Mike Thompson, (Chronicle letters July 11) who supports the idea, lives in Rowley Regis, three miles from his suggested site.

A noisy, smelly and dirty stadium should be built on brown field sites or disused airfields miles from anywhere, so that petrol heads and the like can enjoy their pointless pursuits in isolation. Failing that, they shouldn't be built at all!

R A SARGEANT
Corporation Road
Dudley

Wonderful show
MY daughter and I attended a production of Prodigal Son at Stourbridge Town Hall by Side by Side consisting of a group of adults with learning disabilities. This was wonderful, funny, moving and uplifting. All involved should be very proud.

ANNE ROBERTS
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Bull's trademark goal celebration – his 200th at Roots Hall, Southend



Steve Bull in 1989 when he scored over 50 goals for the club



Steve Bull celebrating winning the Third Division Championship



Graham Turner and Steve Bull with the Third Division Championship trophy

Third Division – we've been there before . . .

AS Wolves supporters contemplate a season of watching the team in the third tier of English football we must take comfort in the fact that the team has been there before, and did not spend long languishing in the lower reaches.

What is now grandly called Division One we all know is really the Third Division. In 1923 the Wolves finished 22nd in Division Two, and were relegated to the third tier for the first time, then Division 3 (North).

George Robey, the manager kept his job for the following season, something which would not happen

by Alec Brew

today, and rewarded the club by immediately leading them to the championship, losing only three matches in the league.

Most of the team were new, and it was a centre forward brought in from Ebbw Vale, Harry Lees, who led the scoring charts with 21 league goals and one in the FA Cup.

Struggled

Wolves did not stay long the next time they found themselves in Division 3, they passed right through.

Relegated from Division 2 in 1985, they struggled all season, won only 11 games, and were rele-

gated yet again. They were to spend two seasons in Division 4, and it was two men in particular who began the club's rise back up the divisions, Graham Turner, the manager, and the centre forward he famously stole from West Brom, Steve Bull.

Once again Wolves spent only one season in Division 3. Bull's 37 league goals took them to the 1988-89 Division Three Championship, and himself into the England team.

Next season will only be the team's fourth season in the third tier, so let us hope the new head coach, Kenny Jackett, emulates his predecessors, George Robey and Graham Turner, and leads the team back up again as champions.



New head coach Kenny Jackett is now in the hot seat

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NEWS

How the Dudley Bug will look if plans are passed



The view from Dudley Castle: the low-lying Trilobite structure will allow clear views up to the 11th century castle

IT'S a futuristic design which relates to prehistoric times – this is the new education and conference centre planned for Dudley Zoo which will be built in the shape of a fossil.

The striking Trilobite – otherwise known as the Dudley Bug – is the building earmarked for the site of Dudley Hippodrome should the controversial plans to demolish the theatre be approved at a meeting next month.

These new artist's impressions show how architectural features have been incorporated into the new centre, including sweeping curves which form a fossil shape.

It will highlight Castle Hill's unique history as part of a prehistoric seabed, and educate visitors on creatures such as the trilobite.

It will incorporate a centre for zoology, geology and education and link to the limestone Stores Cavern



Looking from Station Road junction

beneath the zoo. Officials from the zoo said the building will offer uninterrupted views of 11th century Dudley Castle.

They also want the centre to link to the zoo's animals and conservation work and delve into the history of limestone and coal in the area linking the region's industrial heritage.

Major £10 million redevelopment plans are already under way for Castle Hill with a new visitor entrance for the zoo in the pipeline. This would transform the lower levels of the 40-acre site to link with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust. It is

part of wider plans to boost tourism in Dudley to bring in up to one million visitors a year.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said a European funding bid for the centre would be submitted next year.

Subject to planning permission, Mr Suddock said he hoped work would get underway in 2015/16 and be integrated into the Castle Hill programme.

"Trilobite will expand and improve our education facilities to meet the growing demands placed upon Dudley Zoo and support our new castle experience which opens in October 2014," he said.

Dudley Council leader David Sparks welcomed the design and said he hoped it would provide an iconic addition to the region's landscape.

"The futuristic design of the building is totally in keeping with the world famous Tecton buildings which are such a feature of the zoo," he said.

A public piazza would be created at the entrance of the zoo.

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Drugs found in raid on house

A MAN caught growing almost a dozen cannabis plants in his home told police he turned to cultivating because 'he was getting ripped off by drug dealers', a court heard.

Asa Cartwright, aged 26, of Grovesnor Way, Brierley Hill, was caught with 11 plants up to 3ft-high in two tents in an upstairs room in his house during a raid on May 9. Police believed the drugs carried a street value of more than £2,000.

Cartwright pleaded guilty to growing the drug when he appearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court last week.

Mrs. Clare Davis, prosecuting, said: "He told police the plants were eight weeks into the crop. He said he was getting ripped off by drug dealers and decided to grow his own to save some money."

Sentenced was adjourned until July 29.

Decision due on plan to build homes at former factory site

ALMOST 100 homes will be built on the site of a former factory in Brierley Hill under new plans aimed at helping to boost the town's regeneration.

Plans to demolish derelict buildings on land off Delph Road to make way for the properties are poised to be given the go-ahead.

Developer Orchard Park Properties Ltd said the housing estate will help to breathe new life into the site, which has been lying empty for more than a decade having previously been home to several manufacturing firms.

The proposals, which will see 96 one to five-

bedroom homes built on the land, were submitted to Dudley Council.

A planning statement, submitted by agent David Leadbetter, said: "The 96 dwellings proposed incorporate a mix of house types ranging from one bed properties to five bed family homes."

Provide

The main access to the site, which is near the Stourbridge Canal, will be from Delph Road.

A footpath/cycle link will be provided from the site onto Anchor Hill.

The development has now been recommended

for approval by planners, who said the scheme would provide 'the opportunity to revitalise and regenerate this part of the borough'.

A final decision was due to be made by councilors at a meeting this week.

Ward councillor Zafar Islam has welcomed the scheme, saying: "This development will help bring a derelict and eyesore site at the top of Delph Road back into use."

"A previous application had been submitted for homes by someone but this failed for whatever reason.

"Now we have an application for 96 homes including some affordable housing."

Park friends win project awards

A PARK friends group in Stourbridge has scooped awards for IT innovation and championing children's projects. The Friends of Wordsley Park group only reformed last year to help improve King George V Park, off Lawnswood Road, for visitors.

Community litter picks, a 'graffiti wall' for young people to use and installing a sensory garden for children have been among work that led members to win two awards at Dudley Council's Green Spaces Awards 2013 – the IT Wizards award and Children and Young People's Champions honour. The IT award recognises the group for setting up its own Facebook page and twitter account.

Ward Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who re-established the group, said: "These awards are a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the committee members, working for the greater community in Word-

Gardener hoping cash will bloom



John Massey, who is opening his Kingswinford garden to raise funds for Cancer Support at the White House

SOUTH African plants will be on show when top gardener John Massey welcomes visitors to his canalside garden near Wall Heath this Saturday. He is opening his garden at Ashwood Nurseries, Lower Lane, to raise money for the Dudley charity, Cancer Support at The White House.

The colourful garden, which has won 50 consecutive gold medals at Royal Horticultural Society shows, boasts diascias, kniphofias, agapanthus and his world-famous range of hellebores, the Ashwood Garden Hybrids.

It will be open from 10am until 4pm. Admission is £5 for adults and free for children. In previous years, Mr Massey has raised almost £250,000 through his gardening for local charities and good causes.

He said: "It has been an awful spring and early summer but nature is a wonderful thing and a garden always comes up with something interesting. I have an area I call South Africa which has many plants from that country and they have really thrived in the recent warm weather. We are very pleased to be able to help another local charity by opening the garden and we are always most grateful to the public who come along to support our efforts."

Volunteers needed to help on old folk trips

A CHARITY that helps elderly people in Dudley is seeking volunteers to help run day trips. Age UK Dudley is looking for drivers and escorts for its Out and About service, which provides outings to places of interest.

Brian Phillips, the charity's senior manager, said the service had become increasingly popular over the past 12 months, with the number of users in the borough increasing by about 20 per cent to more than 140.

He added: "The service currently has six volunteers and we are looking for about three drivers and four or five escorts. That would make a real difference to what we do."

"Out and About recognises the difficulties faced by older people in society in accessing many of the daily services which so many of us just take for granted. A visit to the library, the theatre, or even to the shops can be quite impossible for some without support. Being unable to leave the house reduces social companionship and can often lead to increased feeling of loneliness and social isolation."

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Jenny Bates on 01384 340 608.

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NEWS

Campaign sees donor register reach 62,000

THOUSANDS of people in Dudley have signed up to the organ donor register since the start of a council campaign 12 months ago.

The numbers shot up by six per cent to 62,143 from 58,842 – a rise of 3,301 people, which is higher than the national increase.

Dudley Council joined forces with NHS Blood and Transport to help boost numbers and was only the second local authority to sign up to an innovative partnership aimed at promoting the live-saving register.

It comes as bosses marked National Transplant Week last week, which aimed to raise awareness.

This year, the theme Pass It On will focus on encouraging residents not to just sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register, but to crucially tell their loved ones about their wishes.

Huge

Cabinet member for health and well-being Councillor Stuart Turner said: "I am delighted the work we have been doing to promote the importance of signing up to the Organ Donor Register has had such a positive impact.

Signing up to the register really is a matter of life and death for some people. This work really does make a huge difference to the families affected by transplants and I would urge people to find out more."

Director of organ donation and transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant Sally Johnson said: "We need a transformation in donor and family consent to organ donation because the UK's family refusal rate remains one of the highest in Europe."

Anyone wanting to sign up should call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.transplantweek.co.uk

Patients celebrate the 'Miracle Makers'



AAA screening co-ordinator Tracey Bayliss, front seated, with consultants and patients at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital

THEY are a team dubbed the 'Miracle Makers' after saving the lives of men who arrived at their doctor's surgery for a routine check up.

Now the patients have thanked medical staff with a celebratory party for giving them a new lease of life and hope for the future. All the patients have survived after coming through a region-wide screening programme run from Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

More than 4,000 men over the age of 65 have been screened since the Black Country AAA screening programme was launched last year.

The screening scans for any trace of an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), which is a potentially fatal condition where a main blood vessel from the heart swells, leaving it at risk of rupture. In total 53 were detected in the past few months, prompting urgent action, including life-saving surgery.

Among those treated was Royal Mail sorting office worker Tom Walker, aged 65, who received a routine check up letter to his Wednesfield home last year. He said he was ready to throw it away but his wife Sue persuaded him to go for a screening.

Within days it was discovered he had an aneurysm that required surgery. Mr Walker says he has come to realise how thankful he was for the work of the staff.

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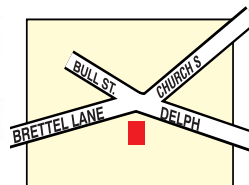
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NEWS

Celebrations for dedicated couple



Diamond wedding couple Robert and Beryl Whittaker



The happy couple on their wedding day in 1953

BERYL and Robert Whittaker have been together through thick and thin during their marriage.

And, despite the fact that times have recently become difficult because of Mr Whittaker's ill health, the Stourbridge couple's dedication towards each other has only been strengthened.

Mr and Mrs Whittaker celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on June 13, remembering their special day of 60 years ago.

Mrs Whittaker, aged 81, said: "It has been about give and take, our marriage."

"It hasn't always been easy with my husband's ill health but we help each

other. "He's worked hard all his life and it's a pleasure to help him now."

Mr Whittaker, aged 86, recently suffered a heart attack and a stroke and had to retire from running his Birmingham cleaning business due to ill health a few years before the age of 67, which was when he had hoped to retire.

Mrs Whittaker said the two met in Stourbridge when she was 19.

Beryl Auden, as she was then, was living in Stourbridge at the time, while Mr Whittaker, four years older, was from nearby Stambermill.

Mrs Whittaker said: "When we met I thought: 'he's nice and he's got a nice nature' and that was it. "It just went

from there." They were married at St Thomas's Church, Stourbridge.

Mr Whittaker served in the Royal Horse Artillery, starting his contract cleaning business when he came out, while she worked in the office of an Amblecote bakery.

They eventually moved into a house in St Peter's Road, where they have remained ever since.

Mrs Whittaker said: "We're very happy here. We've got a nice home and a lovely garden."

The couple have three children - Susan, aged 53, Ian, aged 50 and Jon, aged 47 - and eight grandsons.

ADVERTISEMENT

Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

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THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of dentist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciples - general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve. "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic



makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Options

Traditional

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

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DENTURES which use suction to stay in place are helping to resolve common stability problems. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated devices fitted into the prosthetic.

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DENTURES retained by implants offer a guaranteed solution to stability issues. Implant procedures are available at the Denture Clinic Dudley and Wolverhampton premises through Total Implant Solutions.



Steven Burchell
 Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
 (GDC108353)
 with Denture Clinic
 manager Peter Brookes
 (GDC124429)



Denture Clinic

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NEWS

Trawling archives ready for show at £6m centre

TWO thousand maps, 400 archive boxes of documents and 120 books, which make up the Earl of Dudley estate collection, are being catalogued so they can go on public display.

Among the items are the plans of Himley Hall's gardens designed by Capability Brown and a papal bull dated 1182 granting churches and lands to the Prior of Dudley, from the Pope.

Dudley Council has received a grant of £42,000 from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme to organise the collection.

It will be housed at the £6 million archives and local history centre being built in Tipton Road, Dudley, opposite the Black Country Living Museum.

Two project workers will catalogue the collection, which spans eight centuries. It relates to the running of the Earl of Dudley's estate which covered large tranches of the borough.

Among the artefacts is a series of beautiful 19th and 20th century illuminated addresses, some presented when



Project workers Andrew Ireland and Rachael Marsay outside Himley Hall

the second Earl of Dudley was Governor General of Australia in the early 1900s. Cataloguing make the collection accessible for members of the public. Dudley's cabinet member responsible for archives Councillor Stuart Turner said: "We are pleased to receive the cataloguing grant allowing us to catalogue this unique collection."

"The collection is internationally significant, as well as being important to us locally."

"It shows the development of Dudley as a town, along with the surrounding

manors, dating all the way back to the 12th century. The cataloguing process will ensure that the collection can be viewed as well as used for research purposes by everyone."

Work is due to finish next month.

Staff will then start moving all of the documents and other archive materials from the site in Mount Pleasant, Coseley, to the new base.

It is due to open to the public in January and will offer a range of activities for individuals, community groups, schools and colleges.

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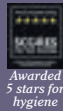
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**NEWS**

Divers learn deep skills in just 11ft 6in of water



The Black Country Divers, in the water, at Halesowen Leisure Centre



Gemma Staples, who has just qualified

THE Great Barrier Reef, the Red Sea – now add to the list of the world's great dive sites, Halesowen's swimming baths.

The Black Country Divers may be landlocked but they head for the 'deep' – 11ft 6in of water – every Wednesday night.

With a splash and a splash, they explore the depths of Halesowen Leisure Centre's pool, practise their art and get ready for more adventurous dives all over the world.

"There are two ways of looking at it," said Dan Higgins, diving officer for the

group, which has nearly 30 members. "Are we the furthest from the sea – or the closest to all the seas?"

Dan, a 40-year-old nurse who lives in Stourbridge's Old Quarter, got bitten by the bug when he was walking in Cornwall and saw divers coming out of the sea with scallops in their hands.

Ready

"I thought 'That's for me' and when I saw a notice in Stourbridge Library about this group, I rang up and was invited to a try dive," he said.

The group's instructors train newcomers, who are soon ready to go further afield to dive sites at Chepstow Quarry and Stoney Cove, Leicester-

shire, where they get the practice they need to qualify. Gemma Staples, aged 28, of Sunningdale Road, Sedgley, has just got her 'ocean diver' qualification, meaning she can go up to 20 metres under water.

"Now I am ready to go off to dive sites," said Gemma, who is recreation assistant at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Mark Mosley, 52, of Wesley Avenue, Cradley, who manages drivers for Cross Country Trains, has just fulfilled an item on his 'bucket list' – diving in the Cenotes caverns in Mexico.

Diving can be expensive but members help each other out by sharing or lending equipment.

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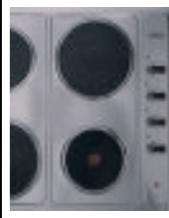
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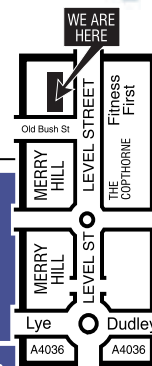


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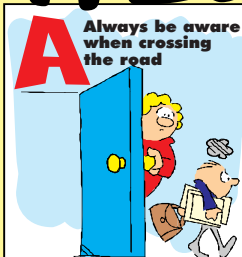


At 30 mph half
the children are
killed

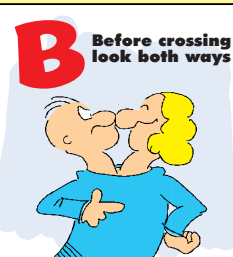


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20 is killed

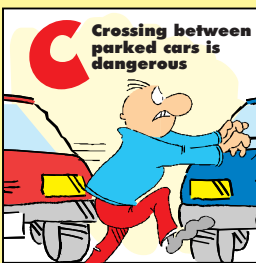
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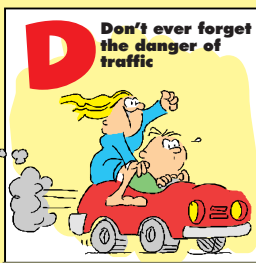
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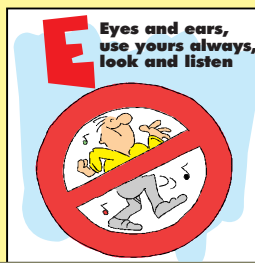
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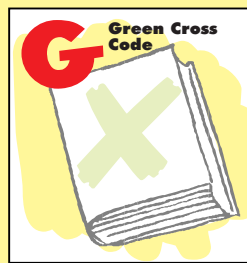
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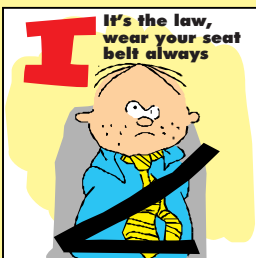
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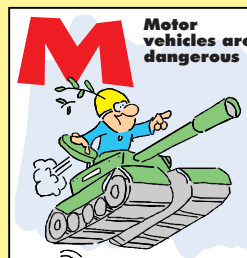
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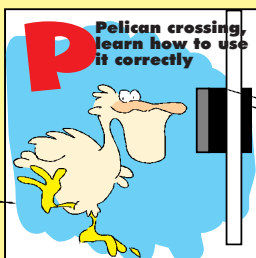
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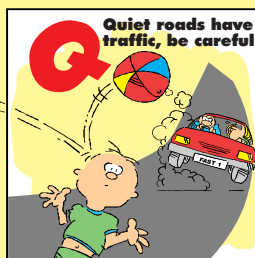
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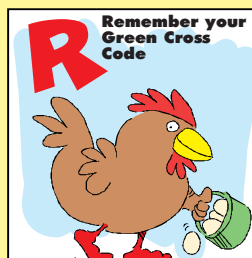
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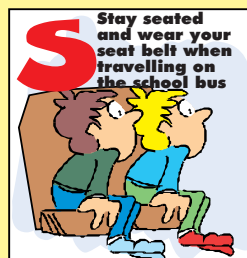
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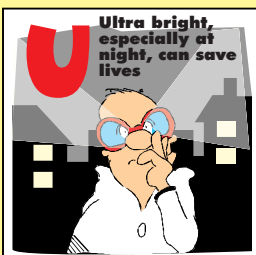
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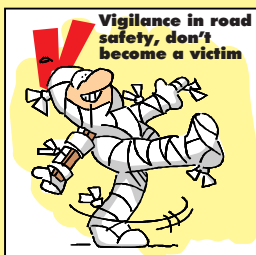
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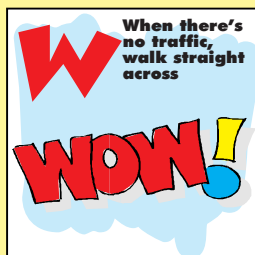
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safety, don't
become a victim
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no traffic,
walk straight
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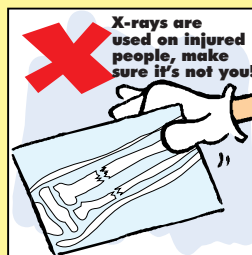
U Your life is
precious -
keep it safe
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people, make
sure it's not you!
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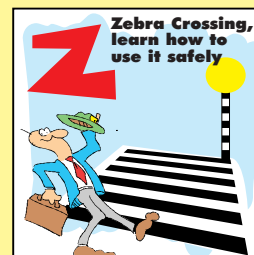
W When there's
no traffic,
walk straight
across
Y Your life is
precious -
keep it safe
Y Zebra Crossing,
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CLUB NEWS

History of park told by guest

BLACKHEATH 'M' TWG

THE June 26 meeting was opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong, who welcomed members, visitors and speaker Ken Smith.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmore and Press officer Iris Harris.

The monthly free raffle took place and three ladies received prizes.

Members held a 'baking day' when an abundance of home-made goodies were sold and money raised for charity. Doreen thanked the members for the excellence of the produce.

The chairman then introduced Mr Smith, whose talk was entitled Haden Hill. With commentary and slides and some old photographs he took the ladies through the history of this wonderful local park. He covered the history of both of the houses on the estate, the Tudor House and Haden Hill and the names of the families who had owned them.

The park is now owned by Sandwell Council but a lot of money is raised by members of The Friends Haden Hill of which Ken is chairman, to help maintain the estate.

A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Hartley.

The next meeting is on Wednesday July 24 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road at 10.30am. Speaker will be Angela Webb on 'A Day in the Life of a Vet'.

BGT Jean performs at celebration lunch



Organist Jean Martyn entertains at the CAMEO Ladies meeting

JANE Emery, chairman, welcomed members to Patshull Park Hotel which was the setting for a celebration lunch to commemorate the Queen's 60 years on the throne. This was followed by entertainment with Britain's Got Talent finalist Jean Martyn. She entertained members with her concert keyboard.

The day concluded with members joining

CAMEO LADIES

in singing and flag waving. The best hat of the day was won by Gloria Cornwell.

Raffle proceeds organised by Elaine Lay will go towards the group's charity for 2013, a special chair bed for Compton Hospice.

Each member was given a white geranium to take home as a memento of the day.

Bodge job as rugs made

QUARRY BANK E TOWNSWOMEN

VICE chairman Mrs Raybould took the chair and welcomed members and visitors to the June meeting.

Members were informed that chairman Mrs Wright was making good progress after a hip replacement op. The club sent its best wishes for a speedy recovery.

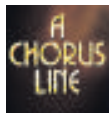
Afternoon tea has been

arranged at Dunsley Hall on August 13. Tickets were distributed to those involved in the federation lunch at the Mill Hotel and names were taken of those wishing to be included on the Harvest Supper at Wollaston.

It was a nostalgic evening as 'The Bantock Boddgers' led by Jan Harrison gave a demonstration of 'boddged rugs' which most older members remembered being worked upon by their grandmothers and great aunts.

The ladies were encouraged to try 'boddging' with varying degrees of success.

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Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

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SINGLE LADIES

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NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTm fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406108

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. A.CA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 355785

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918

JANET looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405823

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kiddminster area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTm younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes night's in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTm appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes night's out, seeks N/S, 60's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

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LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth, male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

I am Tracy 39yr old young chatty single female looking for older male to look after me and show me some much needed attention with discretion and no ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405293

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REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405281

VOLUPTUOUS big hearted brunette, Maria, 36, loves music, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346785

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099

SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. A.CA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

MADLINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615

BIG is beautiful! Voluptuous, sensual female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386741

33YR old busty black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386393

ANGIE 36, likes cosy nights in/out, country walks, sensitive, caring, loyal, spiritual, seeks male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386885

50YR old female, seeks male for fun times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323580

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387631

SINGLE MEN

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38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 369663

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTm lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

MALE 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTm female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTm attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeks genuine lady, mid 50-60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404837

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

CARING male looking for LTR with lady 50's-60's, 17stone plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404585

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313

PATRICK 60's, single, sensual, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906

What's On! Stourbridge

ALBUM REVIEWS

Black Sabbath - 13

BRUMMIE rock royalty reconvene for what producer Rick Rubin says they should think of as their second album.

Now 13 doesn't really recapture the raw sound of Sabbath's 1970 debut but there are glimpses of that spirit on this original line-up reunion - that should be enough for any heavy metal fan to get a copy. Trade-marks are present, tolling bell, religion-baiting lyrics, Ozzy Osbourne's desolate wail and mighty Tony Iommi riffs.

Highlights include Zeitgeist with its funky undercurrent and the epic End of the Beginning. Appetites are well and truly whetted for Black Sabbath's homecoming gigs at the LG on December 20 and at the NIA on December 22.

Birmingham rock band the Editors can be moodily magnificent but too much of new album *The Weight Of Your Love* sounds bogus and empty, an obvious bid for stadium rock status. I can understand why guitarist Chris Urbanowicz bailed out.

It's good to hear blonde Abba star Agnetha Fältskog again, her mellower tones exercised on solo album 'A' by a fairly bland bunch of ballads and disco numbers. She also duets with Gary Barlow. *The Proclaimers* hit the scene more than 25 years ago and the Scottish twins celebrate with *A Very Best Of*, which for most listeners doesn't stretch beyond 500 Miles and Letter To America. **LB**

Manfreds topping the bill at brand new blues-rock festival

WBOS men ready to bare all for Monty

MEMBERS of West Bromwich Operatic Society are gearing up to bare all in a production of *The Full Monty* in September.

The company, in its 75th anniversary year, will be staging the musical at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from September 24 to 28. Rehearsals are now well under way for the show which features a 40-strong cast with amateur actors and singers from across the Black Country.

Director John Wetherall said: "We have really managed to attract the cream of amateur talent to become members of the show and we are extremely lucky for that."

The hit musical tells of a group of unemployed men who find pay and pride in stripping for a living.

Mr Wetherall added: "It attracts people who don't necessarily go to the theatre all the time and it is a great opportunity for someone that doesn't go to musicals to be pretty much guaranteed a night of enjoyment."

Performances start at 7.30pm. Matinees will also take place on the Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm. To book call 01384 377 402 or 01902 429 212.



Cheeky chaps - the WBOS Full Monty crew, from left, Lyndon Flavell, Andy Fogglin, Fidel Lloyd, Callum McArthur, and Simon McGee

THE MANFREDS, featuring 1960s singing star and BBC Radio 2 DJ Paul Jones, will top the bill at a new blues and rock festival being held between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth.

Hilton Music Festival, held in marquees at Grange Fruit Farm beside the A454, is a two-day event over the weekend of August 10 and 11.

The Manfreds, also featuring original Manfred Mann members Paul McGuinness and Mike Hugg, are the Saturday headliners.

Topping the bill on the Sunday will be Guitarist Magazine's acoustic player of the year winner Nikke Murray, who will also be performing the day before.

Saturday also features gutsy young blues and soul singer Jo Harman, Mi'Das (Mike Davies), raucous rock band The Wholls and rockabilly outfit The Rebelbeats.

The Sunday line up includes Stackridge members Andy Davis, Clare Lindley and Brian Mullan (DLM) with banjo wizard Leon Hunt, folk-rock duo Blackheart, and guitarist-electric harpist Jennifer Crook. There will be several other acts completing the line-up. For details call the festival hotline on 07583 484127.

Guitar legend has Robin date

ROCK Guitar legend Michael Schenker appears at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday in one of only three UK club shows. His band boasts ex-Scorpions stars Herman Rarebell (drums) and Francis Buscholz (bass). MSG stalwart Wayne Findlay (keyboards) and Doogie White (Rainbow/Yngwie Malmsteen) on vocals. Call 01902 401211 to book or pay £25 on the door.



Blues festival date The Manfreds

REVIEW

Trouble is it's so predictable

The Trouble With Old Lovers, Grand Theatre 'OH what a tangled web we weave' may be a cliché, but also the truth when old lovers come together after 20 years.

The Trouble With Old Lovers is the third in the Ian Dickens' Summer Play Season at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre and tells the tale of two couples, who before they were married, dated each other.

It focuses on their subsequent reactions to their ex-partners, when one wife invites the other couple to dinner.

Comical

What she had not bargained for however, was the real identity of a woman the couple ask to bring along with them.

This is a classic case of a first rate group of actors, cast in a play, the plot of which is rather predictable and at times, a little tedious. That said though, the message is very clear - marriage triumphs over adultery.

Emmerdale star, Peter Amory, gives an excellent performance as Tom, the philandering husband-while Simon Linnell's comical portrayal of the sleazy Edward offers light relief. Nicola Bryant as the betrayed wife, Alice, is the linchpin of this production.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 20.07.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Oliver Coleman

Casualty

BBC1, 9.10pm
Things are more tense than usual in the long-running medical drama this week. Instead of patients stepping on rakes or falling off ladders, tempers become heated as the prison riot escalates, putting Jeff and Tom in grave danger. Meanwhile, at the hospital Tess treats two sisters who have a lot on their plate. One of them has been suffering from headaches, and when another member of the family falls ill with potentially fatal consequences, the truth behind their home life suddenly becomes all too apparent.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **12.10 Live Golf:** The Open Championship. Further coverage of the third day's play at Muirfield.

6.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark. (1981) Archaeologist Indiana Jones tries to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis can get their hands on it. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford.

8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts as five contestants pit their wits in a bid to win a share of the loot. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Scott Mills. Last in the series.

9.10 Casualty. The prison riot escalates, putting both Tom and Jeff in grave danger, while at the hospital Tess treats two young sisters who bear a great burden for such small shoulders. The series returns in two weeks' time.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes Brown is the best man for the wedding, but is distracted when her neighbour Winnie's husband is rushed into hospital. (R)

10.30 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Face/Off. (1997) An FBI agent has the face of a terrorist grafted onto his own to foil a bombing, only for the criminal to assume his identity. Action thriller, with Nicolas Cage and John Travolta.

1.00 Film: Hooper. (1978) **2.35 Weatherview.** **2.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.35 Film: Wagon Train. (1940) **7.35 Film:** The Big Street. (1942) **9.00 A History of Scotland.** (R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** (R) **11.30 What to Eat Now.** (R) **12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking.** **12.45 University Challenge.** (R) **1.15 EastEnders.** (R) **3.10 Wild Shepherds** with Kate Humble. (R) **4.10 Flog It!** **5.10 Escape to the Country.** (R)

6.10 Live Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the conclusion of the third day's play at Muirfield, where the remaining players on the course complete their penultimate rounds.

7.40 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are assigned to guard a vital telephone line through the night, but wake to find an unexploded bomb caught in the wires. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.10 David Starkey's Music and Monarchy. New series. The author and broadcaster explores how the monarchy has shaped the history of British music, beginning by examining the stories of kings who were also composers.

9.10 Top of the Lake. The search for Tui Mutcham escalates and Robin pursues a suspect to his house for questioning, but the situation quickly spirals out of control. Thriller, with Elisabeth Moss.

10.10 QI XL. (R)

10.55 Film: Strawberry Fields. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Anna Madeley. **12.20 Film:** The Open Championship - Highlights. **1.05 Film:** Repo Chick. (2009) **2.45 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates.** **6.25 Poppy Cat.** **6.40 Poppy Cat.** **6.50 Canimals.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.10 Bookaboo.** **7.20 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil.** **7.35 The Avengers:** Earth's Mightiest Heroes **8.00 Gravity Falls.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Dinner Date.** (R) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **10.15 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.15 Saturday Farm.** **12.15 ITV News Weather.** **12.25 All Star Mr & Mrs.** (R) **1.25 The Chase.** (R) **2.25 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **3.10 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001)

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! (R) Cornical clips, including an alligator that hates raccoons. (R)

7.30 Your Face Sounds Familiar. Denise Van Outen joins Emma Bunton and Julian Clary on the panel as the celebrities impersonate more randomly selected music icons. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host.

8.45 All Star Family Fortunes. Broadchurch star Carolyn Pickles and actor Perry Fenwick (EastEnders' Billy Mitchell) team up with their families in an attempt to win money for charity.

9.45 The Americans. An assassin is sent to kill American scientists.

10.45 ITV News: Weather. **11.00 Film: Fearless.** (2006) Fact-based martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li. **12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00 In Plain Sight.** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 Caterham Motorsports.** **7.25 The Grid.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.10 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.35 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 Undercover Boss Canada.** (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.45 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. A hairdresser hosts the final dinner party in Wakefield. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Ramadan Diaries. Short films following British Muslims as they observe Ramadan.

7.20 Grand Designs. A scientist tries to build a carbon-neutral home in Boxford, Suffolk, but the use of untested technology and the uncompromising choice of materials complicate matters. (R)

8.20 The Million Pound Drop Live. Radio 1 DJ Greg James and former Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey try to answer questions correctly to hold onto £1million for charity. Presented by Davina McCall. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: The American. (2010) Premiere. Thriller, with George Clooney and Violante Placido.

12.00 Film: Carriers. (2009) **1.35 Britain's Oldest Stand-Up.** (R) **2.00 The Fishmonger.** (R) **2.10 Welcome to Gargery.** (R) **2.15 Holyoaks.** (R) **4.25 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.20 SuperScrippers.** (R) **5.35 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35 Batman:** The Brave and the Bold. (R) **10.55 Inside Hollywood.** **11.05 Big Brother: Live Eviction.** (R) **12.30 The Hotel Inspector Returns.** (R) **1.30 Cowboy Traders.** (R) **2.30 CSI: NY.** (R) **3.25 CSI: NY.** (R) **4.15 CSI: NY.** (R) **5.15 Film:** Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from the third day of the Second Test at Lord's, where the five-match series continued.

8.00 NCIS. The team becomes involved in an international incident when the body of an American petty officer is discovered, and evidence suggests he was killed on a British ship. (R)

8.55 NCIS. The team investigates the deaths of a radio DJ and a naval officer who were both killed during a live broadcast, and discovers a number of potential suspects. (R)

9.50 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants.

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **4.00 Nick's Quest.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **4.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.10 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.25 The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50 Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00 Top Gear** **9.00 Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00 Family Guy: Greatest Freakin' Griffin** **11.50 American Dad!**

BBC Four
7.00 John Sergeant on Tracks of Empire **8.00 Oceans** **9.00 Wallander: Firewall** **10.25 Southern Rock** at the BBC **11.25 Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga**

ITV2
3.55 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **4.55 Film:** Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **7.30 Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) **9.45 Film:** Deep Blue Sea (1999) **11.55 Lemon La Vida Loca**

ITV3
9.00 Lewis. A visiting professor is murdered. **11.00 Cold Blood**

ITV4
2.00 Tour de France 2013 Live. Stage 20 from Annecy to Semnoz. **4.30 The Cycle Show** **5.30 Police, Camera, Action!** **6.00 The Motorbike Show** **7.00 Tour de France 2013 Highlights** **8.00 Black Gold** **9.00 Hell on Wheels** **10.00 Film:** Waterworld (1995)

E4
5.25 The Mindy Project **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 Suburgatory** **7.25 How I Met Your Mother** **8.30 Happy Endings** **9.00 Film:** Dance Flick (2009) **10.40 The Inbetweeners** **11.45 The Big Bang Theory**

Film4
3.40 Arthur's Hallowed Ground (1986) **5.15 Horton Hears a Who!** (2008) **6.55 The Day the Earth Stood Still** (2008) **9.00 Taken** (2008). Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50 Watchmen** (2009). Comic-book drama, starring Patrick Wilson and Jackie Earle Haley.

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What's On!

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SUNDAY'S TV 21.07.13

CHOICE



Uri Geller

The Secret Life of Uri Geller BBC2, 9pm
We think of Uri Geller and two things spring to mind: the weird art of spoon-bending and a lengthy, well-publicised friendship with Michael Jackson. In his time in the spotlight, the illusionist and paranormal expert has often courted controversy, and everyone now and then he hits the headlines for some bizarre reason or other. But the Beeb's going in with a different angle for this documentary, by exploring the idea that Geller is a psychic spy for intelligence agencies on three continents and has been over a 40-year period.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.30** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Live Golf: The Open Championship.
7.00 **Celebrity Mastermind.** Charles Campion, Kurtis Stacey, Naga Munchetty and Darren Kenny answer questions on Kenneth Grahame, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Ryder Cup and Wessly Kandinsky. (R)
7.30 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
8.00 **Countryside.** Essex is this week's location, as Julia Bradbury walks one of Britain's most dangerous footpaths and Matt Baker meets children who are learning about food by growing it themselves, including Weather for the Week Ahead.
9.00 **The White Queen.** Elizabeth is devastated to learn Edward has taken a mistress, Anne is made a virtual prisoner after becoming George's ward and Margaret searches for a potential husband.
10.00 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
10.25 **Nick and Margaret: We All Pay Your Benefits.** The claimants try out working life in the conclusion of Nick Hewer and Margaret Mountford's experiment to find out who has it best – taxpayers or those on unemployment benefit. (R)
11.25 **Luther.** The cop searches for a vigilante killer. (R)
12.25 **Film:** Night and the City. (1992) **2.05** Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 This is BBC Two. **7.05** **Film:** Split Second. (1953) **8.30** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** **Film:** Easy Virtue. (2008) **1.30** **Film:** The Way We Were. (1973) **3.25** Coast. **3.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. (R) **5.30** The Mating Game – Natural World Special. (R)
6.30 **Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve.** Simon journeys from Oman to the Maldives, where the tropical coral islands are being damaged by bleaching and an entire island has been manufactured as a landfill dump. (R)
7.30 **Wild Cameramen at Work.** Capturing footage of the rarest and most dangerous species on land.
8.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May build a car that can turn into a hovercraft, and two variants of the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG are tested.
9.00 **The Secret Life of Uri Geller.** The illusionist's covert work for intelligence agencies and the military.
10.00 **Live MotoGP.** The US Grand Prix race (Start-time 10.00pm).
11.00 **Mock the Week.** With Rob Beckett, Ed Byrne and Chris Ramsey. (R)
11.30 **What a Load of Buzzcocks.** Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2000. (R)
12.00 Golf: The Open Championship – Highlights. **12.45** Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) **1.40** Holy City. (R) **2.40** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** **Film:** Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm. (1973) **1.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.30** **Film:** Dragnet. (1987) **4.25** A Touch of Frost. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme;** Weather.
6.45 **ITV News;** Weather.
7.00 **Tippling Point: Lucky Stars.** With Rylan Clark, Debra Stephenson and Colin Baker.
8.00 **All Star Mr & Mrs.** With ex-Emmerdale star Sheree Murphy and her footballer husband Harry Kewell, gardener Diarmuid Gavin with his wife Justine, and broadcaster Johnny Ball with his spouse Di.
9.00 **Law & Order: UK.** Part two of two. Sam is suspended from duty and decides to spend some time with his son, while Brooke and Leyton discover who was responsible for the train crash.
10.00 **ITV News;** Weather.
10.15 **The Talent Show Story.** The role of the judges. Last in the series. (R)
11.15 **Murder, She Wrote.** Metzger's brother is accused of murder. (R)
12.10 **The Store.** **2.15** Monk. (R) **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightseries. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Ironman 2013. **7.30** Statesman Triathlon. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: Jungle 2 Jungle. (1997) Comedy, starring Tim Allen. **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.35** **Film:** The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud. (2010)
7.25 **Channel 4 News.**
7.55 **Ramadan Diaries.** Short films following British Muslims as they observe the holy month of Ramadan and talk about the effects of fasting. Part of the 4Ramadan season.
8.00 **The Plane That Saved Britain.** Paralympics presenter and former Royal Marines commando Arthur Williams pays tribute to the De Havilland Mosquito, the Second World War aeroplane he believes history has forgotten.
9.00 **The Returned.** Camille's attempt to help friends of the family ends in tragedy. Simon investigates the circumstances of his first death, while Julie and Laure want to run away with Victor.
10.00 **Film: The Fourth Kind.** (2009) Premiere. A psychiatrist uncovers evidence of alien abduction in a small Alaskan town. Sci-fi horror, starring Milla Jovovich and Will Patton.
12.00 **Film: White Noise.** (2005) **1.45** Southland. (R) **2.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **3.20** Secret Eaters. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Floppers. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Tolly's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. (R) **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Big Brother. (R) **12.00** BB BOTS: Ryan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **1.00** **Film:** Mermaids. (1990) **3.05** **Film:** Michael. (1996) **5.10** **Film:** The Kid. (2000)
7.00 **Crickit: The Ashes.** England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the Second Test at Lord's, where the five-match series continued.
8.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Snow White's goodness is put to the test.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Big Brother.**
10.00 **Film: Dumb and Dumber.** (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels.
12.15 **Sexters.** **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2013
8.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00** Family Guy: Greatest Freakin' Griffin **10.00** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 A Poet's Guide to Britain **7.30** Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics **8.10** Elizabeth Taylor: England's Other Elizabeth **10.05** Hollywood's Lost Screen Goddess: Clara Bow **11.05** Arena: Screen Goddesses
ITV2
2.50 **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **5.05** **Film:** Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi (1983) **7.45** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **10.00** **Film:** Couples Retreat (2009)
ITV3
3.40 Wycliffe **4.50** Foyle's War **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** **Film:** Parenthood (1989) Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin. **11.30** **Film:** Dead Calm (1989)
ITV4
2.25 **Film:** The Far Country (1954) **4.30** Tour de France 2013 Live. The final stage from Versailles to Paris Champs-Elysees. **9.00** River Monsters **10.00** First Among Equals: The Laurie Cunningham Story **11.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights
E4
3.00 90210 **5.25** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00** **Film:** The Net (1995) **10.10** The Inbetweeners **11.20** Skins: Pure – Part One
Film4
3.05 Carry On Nurse (1959) **4.45** Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **6.50** Last Holiday (2006) **9.00** The Karate Kid (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. **11.45** Ip Man (2008)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

The Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A ballet teacher develops a twisted infatuation with one of his students and starts dating her mother to get closer to his pupil. When the woman realises what is going on, she breaks off their relationship – leading him to become even more desperate and dangerous. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga. (2006)

TUESDAY

Synecdoche, New York, BBC1, 12.30am

A neurotic playwright suffering a series of worrying physical ailments takes on a grand project – building a replica of New York in a warehouse for a play based on his own life. After his wife goes travelling, he drifts into an affair, but then finds a second lover in the actress playing his mistress in the production. Drama, with Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2008)

WEDNESDAY

Match Point, BBC1, 12am

A tennis instructor becomes engaged to the sister of a wealthy upper-class client, but is soon attracted to his girlfriend, a seductive American actress. The pair struggle to suppress their feelings but are eventually drawn into a clandestine affair – with tragic repercussions. Woody Allen's London-set thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson. (2005)



Paranormal Activity, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Carry On Up the Khyber, Channel 4, 12.5pm

British forces in colonial India find themselves in deep trouble when a manic local ruler discovers the soldiers' fearsome reputation is thoroughly undeserved – prompting open rebellion. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey. (1968)

FRIDAY

Paranormal Activity, ITV, 10.35pm

A couple move into a new house, only to be disturbed by unexplained supernatural phenomena. They become convinced the building is haunted and set up a network of cameras to acquire evidence of the spirits. An attempt to directly contact the ghosts only makes matters worse. Horror, starring Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat. (2007)

Edge of Darkness, BBC1, 11.35pm

Boston homicide detective Thomas Craven witnesses his activist daughter being brutally murdered outside his home. Believing he was the intended target, Craven sets out to find her killers, but stumbles across a huge political conspiracy reaching to the highest levels of government. Thriller based on the 1985 BBC series, starring Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone, Danny Huston, Bojana Novakovic and David Aaron Baker. (2010)

Pick of the Week

David's new series hits all the right notes

David Starkey is not the kind of man you want to cross.

To say he doesn't suffer fools gladly is to put it mildly – if he doesn't agree with something you say or do, he will pull no punches in telling you about it.

His refusal to compromise has, however, made him an unlikely small-screen star. He's now one of the most respected historians around – which is why, perhaps, those who love the subject can't wait for his take on music and monarchy, his first solo series for the BBC.

"Making this series has been a delight, it has forced me to see historical problems, familiar to me as a political historian, in a quite unexpected light," says Starkey. "It has also been an anecdotal pleasure: music speaks to monarchs and elicits some surprising replies."

"I have been privileged to hear some of the finest music in the canon, sung and played by some of the best performers. It is a royal pageant in music, and, thanks to the magic of television, one we can all now take part in."

Although Starkey didn't become a prominent figure until relatively recently, he began his TV career many moons ago when a former pupil of his (he began his career as a university lecturer) invited him to appear on Behave Yourself, a programme hosted by the much-missed Russell Harty.

"It was a cross between Big Brother and Coronation Street – really TV 30 years before it happened... I had a panel of experts, and I was the historian," explains Starkey.

He says his shows are so popular because he tries "to tell the kind of history that uses many of the techniques of popular entertainment," for which he readily admits he's been criticised.

Nevertheless, it seems to strike a chord (pun entirely intended) with viewers.

Now he's mixing his favourite subject with music. The episode takes in kings who were also composers, such as Henry V and Henry VIII, and the role of the military and monarchs' religious ambitions in making British music the envy of Europe, as well as the great debt

British music still owes to Queen Elizabeth I.

Starkey also travels through time to demonstrate the extent to which the influence of past monarchs is still ingrained in British music today.

The world-famous choir at King's College, Cambridge, Elton College choir and early music ensemble Alamire showcase their talents via performances of music by Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, John Dunstable and John Dowland.

But arguably the most impressive moment comes during a visit to the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace, even the usually unflappable Starkey is impressed with Elton College's choristers when they sing to him from the same hand-illuminated choir-book used by their 16th-century predecessors.

As ever, Starkey is on fine form, bringing the subject matter vividly to life – he may even turn a few viewers on to the joys of Tudor-era music in the process.

But then, you would expect nothing less – he is, after all, the king of TV historians, and long may he reign.



David Starkey's Music and Monarchy, Saturday, BBC2, 8.10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Botched Up Bodies Channel 5, 9pm

There was once a time when plastic surgery and other appearance-altering procedures were only for unfortunate souls who had suffered terrible accidents, or had heaps of cash. But that's changed in recent years, and now, the number of people going under the knife for unnecessary, yet potentially life-changing, operations is on the increase. Those who opt for such a course of treatment expect to have their features altered – and on waking up from the anaesthetic, that has usually happened, but just not always in the way they expected. This new series claims that repairing botched cosmetic operations is now a business in itself – but do these secondary surgeries result in people finally getting the look they wanted?

Don't Blame Facebook Channel 4, 10pm

In some ways, Facebook has arguably made our lives better – it's made it a lot easier to find out what someone you went to school with and haven't spoken to since is having for tea on any given day. But social networking can also land you in trouble, especially if you forget that when you press post, you're sending out your ill-advised comments and embarrassing photos to everyone on your friends list and possibly beyond. The latest instalment in this occasional series looks at some of the people who have made some humiliating mistakes on social media, whether they are trolls who have gone too far, or amateur snappers whose private photos have been offered up for public consumption.

TUESDAY

I Survived a Fatal Flight Channel 5, 8pm

If you're just about packed and ready to head off on your jollies, this documentary might be one to record and watch upon your return when your feet are firmly back on solid ground. These are the fascinating stories of lone survivors of otherwise fatal plane crashes, as they describe what they went through in bid to survive while all around them were dead. At 87, D-Day veteran Phil Bradley is the oldest lone survivor in the world, while Juliane Koepke's story of her flight exploding mid-air, sending her plummeting to the ground from two miles above the Peruvian rainforest, will leave the hairs on the back of your neck standing on end.

Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free Channel 4, 8pm

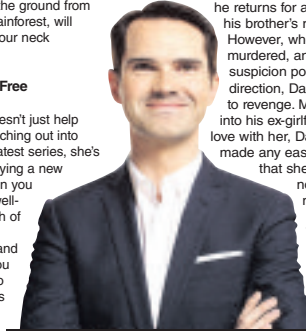
Property guru Kirstie Allsopp doesn't just help people find houses – she's branching out into furnishing them as well. In her latest series, she's on a mission to show us that buying a new place doesn't automatically mean you have to take a trip to a certain well-known Swedish retailer in search of cheap wardrobes and tea lights, because if you've got the skills and know the right places to look, you could kit the place out for next to nothing. To prove her point, she's opening her own shop in Glasgow, which will be stocked with furniture that's been

sourced for free. She'll also be transforming two houses a week, beginning with Glasgow couple Harry Blackwood and Gillian Bland's pad.

WEDNESDAY

Love/Hate Channel 5, 10pm

RTE's cult series finally comes to Channel 5, so there's a chance for viewers on the mainland to see what all the fuss is about. It centres on Darren Tracey (Robert Sheehan), a Dubliner who left for Spain a year ago when a gun was found in his house. But now, homesick, he returns for a party to celebrate his brother's release from prison. However, when his sibling is murdered, and with the finger of suspicion pointed in every direction, Darren's thoughts turn to revenge. Meanwhile, he runs into his ex-girlfriend Rosie. Still in love with her, Darren's longing isn't made any easier when he learns that she's moved on and is now living with gang member Stephen Doyle. Game of Thrones' Aiden Gillen also stars, with Ruth Negga, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Ruth Bradley and Lawrence Kinlan.



8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY

Dara O Briain's Science Club BBC2, 8pm

The eponymous host returns with a second series of the show which takes a scientific subject each week and addresses it from different angles. Dara will be using exploratory films and studio discussions to get to the heart of these weighty matters, while also drawing on the expertise of specialists. Episode one looks at the human mind. In Pittsburgh, journalist Alok Jha tests whether a computer can read his thoughts, and in Texas, oceanographer Helen Czerski examines Nasa's theory that the Earth's weather is being influenced by a mysterious force. Back in the studio, Dara takes control of metallurgist Mark Miodownik's brain to demonstrate how illusions and machines can be used to manipulate the mind.

FRIDAY

8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Channel 4, 9pm

When 8 Out of 10 Cats regulars Jimmy Carr, Jon Richardson and Sean Lock played long-running quiz Countdown as part of Channel 4's mash-up in 2012, some thought the idea might fall flat on its face. However, it proved to be one of Channel 4's most rewarding experiments, not least because Jon got to show off what a maths wiz he is when under pressure. "Wouldn't that make a great series?" thought many. Well, now here it is, and joining all of the above are Rhod Gilbert and Jason Manford. Adding glamour to the proceedings is Rachel Riley, who provides the letters and numbers with a little help from comedian Joe Wilkinson.

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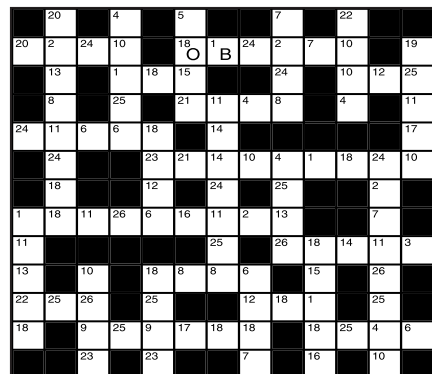
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.230

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

U K V Z P N S X Q L C F I
J A Y R O B T H G M W D E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

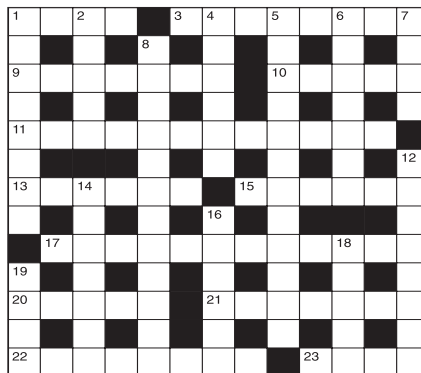
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They provide fuel records (4)
3. Observed the beaks - they're mergansers (3-5)
9. Behaved playfully - subjected to a search (7)
10. Measure a young animal by it (5)
11. Making the pitch too big - but inflicting defeat (12)
13. The area of what was once temporary accommodation (6)
15. A woodworker who becomes a member (6)
17. The affliction of one who experiences irregular beatings (5-7)
20. Stick to prohibition outside (5)
21. Opposite directions included in characteristic conveyance (7)
22. They put on other people's clothes! (8)
23. Permanent settlers have come to this (4)

Down

1. Surplus remained on top (4-4)
2. The conductor is caricatured, we hear (5)
4. They figure out the total number of poisonous creatures (6)
5. Presumably he's not in the front rank of foresters (12)
6. Noble arrangement about an Eastern country (7)
7. Position from which to take aim, one hears (4)
8. Figures are cut on them by blades a foot long (7-5)
12. Describing the cleric who is unusually spritely (8)
14. Upholder of the board (7)
16. Pressman tried to change nothing inside (6)
18. Promotes sales - item of property put back inside (5)
19. The position of one who has retired (4)



Quick Clues:

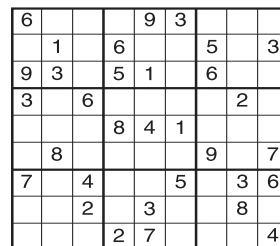
Across

1. Saucy (4)
3. Jam (8)
9. Rubbers (7)
10. Hackneyed (5)
11. Teacher (12)
13. Lottery (6)
15. Hesitate (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Boredom (5)
21. Wordy (7)
22. Commonplace (8)
23. Pluck (4)

Down

1. Delight (8)
2. Extend (5)
4. Recommence (6)
5. Adequate (12)
6. Apparel (7)
7. Pitcher (4)
8. Memory (12)
12. Outlook (8)
14. Simulated (7)
16. Tremble (6)
18. Smell (5)
19. Nil (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	1	2	1	8	9	6	7	5
8	7	6	1	5	3	2	4	9
9	5	4	7	2	6	8	3	1
2	6	8	5	7	4	9	1	3
5	9	3	8	6	1	4	2	7
1	4	7	3	9	2	5	8	6
7	2	9	6	3	8	1	5	4
4	8	5	9	1	7	3	6	2
6	3	1	2	4	5	7	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Bee-line; 7 Sheep; 9 Trunk; 10 Pension; 12 Reinforcing; 14 Authorities; 18 Against; 19 Stern; 21 Sower; 22 Shearer.
Down: 1 Bears; 2 Blonde; 3 Ant; 4 Physic; 5 Recount; 8 Deports; 11 Undress; 13 Surgeon; 15 Hailed; 16 Extras; 17 Tried; 20 Shy. QUICK - Across: 6 Decorum; 7 Sally; 9 Claim; 10 Elegant; 12 Intermingle; 14 Information; 18 Blatant; 19 Ideal; 21 Agree; 22 Capable. Down: 1 Reply; 2 Notion; 3 Buy; 4 Jargon; 5 Blankly; 8 Climate; 11 Teeming; 13 Analogy; 15 Outlet; 16 Ordeal; 17 Tally; 20 Wan.



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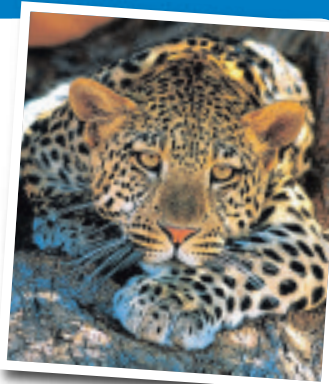
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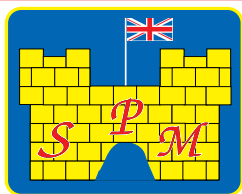
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£495 pcm
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£650 pcm
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Garage, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD NEW



PARK STREET
£575 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking.

WORDSLEY NEW



MARINE CRESCENT
£550 pcm
Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

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MANOR PARK
£625 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

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WORDSLEY



HIGH STREET
£485 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

COSELEY



GREENOAK CRESCENT
£650 pcm
Modern Terrace House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking for 3 cars, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD



MANOR PARK
£595 pcm
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GORNAL



CENTRAL DRIVE
£525 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY



TACK FARM ROAD
£595 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking bay at rear, Front & Rear Garden

DUDLEY



LIMES ROAD
£525 pcm
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

DUDLEY



HAWKESLEY ROAD
£525 pcm
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD



GREENCROFT
£600 pcm
Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL



CHURCH STREET
£385 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD



LABURNUM ROAD
£460 pcm
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden.

KINGSWINFORD



THE PORTWAY
£385 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

DUDLEY



MONCRIEFFE CLOSE
£415 pcm
Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Private Parking, UNFURNISHED

Property

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Modern detached close to the centre of Gornal

A MODERN three bedroom detached house, close to the centre of Gornal, is on the market based on offers around £206,995.

The property at 6 Prices Road benefits from central heating and double glazing, and outside to the front is a block paved driveway to a single garage and to the rear a Japanese-style garden with paved patio.

On the ground floor is an entrance hall and cloakroom with toilet and wash hand basin and rear lounge with patio doors to the garden and inglenook fireplace with inset fire.

Utility

There is a separate front dining room and a breakfast kitchen with base, drawer and wall units, work tops, inset stainless steel sink, built in cooker with separate gas hob and extractor over, built in dishwasher and fridge freezer and separate utility with sink and base unit.

On the first floor are three bedrooms – the master with en suite of WC, wash hand basin and shower cubicle – and family bathroom with white suite comprising of bath, separate shower cubicle, WC and wash hand basin.

For further details or to arrange a viewing call the agent Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744.



Berriman Eaton is inviting offers in the region of £206,995 for this house

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Halls

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HALLS PROPERTY AUCTION

The following lots will be offered for sale by Public Auction
(subject to conditions of sale and/or prior sale)

On 24th July 2013

At BEST WESTERN Stone Manor Hotel, Stone, Nr Kidderminster, DY10 4PJ
at 6.00pm



LOT 1

38 Orchard Close, Bliss Gate, DY14 9XZ

A substantial attached three bedroom bungalow, having been extended and quietly situated in this most popular rural location. The property is in need of some modernisation and refurbishment. EPC=E
GUIDE £150,000



LOT 2

Land and Coppice at Bliss Gate, Bewdley
Mixed woodland/pasture field, stables/stock barn almost 7.5 acres



LOT 3

Market House, New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AE

Former Royal Air Forces Association club house
Situated within the heart of Kidderminster and being close to a wide range of facilities and amenities making the site ideal for a range of purposes. EPC=D
GUIDE £75,000



SOLD

**LOT 4
91 Upton Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2XU**

A three bedroom semi detached situated in cul de sac position in need of modernisation and refurbishment. EPC=D
GUIDE £50,000 - £60,000



LOT 5

1 Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster, DY11 5QA

A prefabricated concrete structure 3 bedroom semi detached home in need of updating and modernising, conveniently situated in this quiet residential location with one of Kidderminsters most popular Primary Schools a short distance away. EPC=D
GUIDE £ 90,000 - £100,000



LOT 6

Land at Church Farm, Churchill, Nr Kidderminster, DY10 3LY

Grazing Land available in 3 lots
LOT 1 - 3.8 HA (9.4 acres) **GUIDE £45,000**
LOT 2 - 1.3 HA (3.2 acres) **GUIDE £22,500**
LOT 3 - 0.58 HA (1.4 acres) **GUIDE £10,000**



LOT 7

Old Yates Cottages, Abberley, WR6 6AT

A wonderful position for this detached property currently two independent attached cottages with the potential to form one spacious and attractive character home set within the beautiful north western countryside with attractive views. EPC=E
GUIDE £300,000 to £350,000



LOT 8

Eckington Bank, Pershore Road, Eckington WR10 3DD

A large family house requiring complete renovation with extensive grounds to include a paddock and in all the land extends to approximately 12.91 acres (5.228 Ha)
GUIDE £375,000

**ALL LOTS SUBJECT TO BUYERS PREMIUM
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE ON 01562 820880 OR WORCESTER OFFICE ON 01905 611066

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PROPERTY SERVICES



COT LANE KINGSWINFORD

A stylish superbly appointed and spacious four bedroom detached family home situated at this highly sought after location and close to all local amenities. The accommodation comprises of: Canopy entrance, reception hall, walk in downstairs store, cloakroom, lounge, open plan dining/kitchen, utility room, conservatory, four bedrooms (master en-suite), house bathroom and garage. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, block paved driveway and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

1300PCM



SCAFFELL ROAD AMBLESCOTE

A very well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms and refitted family bathroom. The property further benefits from having integral single garage, off road parking, rear paved patio garden, gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

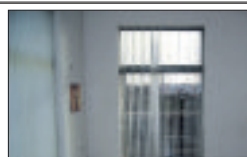
£600PCM



TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM



CAVALIER DRIVE HALESOWEN

A very well presented first floor, two bedroom apartment in a popular and sought after location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal Entrance Hall, Private Reception, Lounge, fitted kitchen, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

495PCM



HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A delightful two bedroom period property situated in a prominent location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear garden and gravelled driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

495PCM



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom town house with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge with gas fire, kitchen with gas cooker, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475.00 PCM



SOUTH PARK MEWS BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented modern two bedroom semi detached property having easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centres. The accommodation comprises of: entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted breakfast kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing, off road parking, and a landscaped rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: CAT ONLY SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM



HENZEL CROFT BRIERLEY HILL

A beautifully presented two bedroom second floor apartment situated in a new development close to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill centres. The accommodation comprises: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, through lounge diner, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating, communal gardens with allocated parking and visitor bays. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

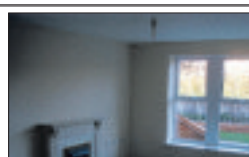
£475PCM



ELBOW STREET OLDHILL

A well presented ground floor Apartment in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise: Communal entrance hall, private reception, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from electric storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

470PCM



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM



LIDDIARD COURT WOLLASTON

An Extremely well presented one bedroom over 60's warden controlled second floor apartment situated in a highly desirable retirement complex, being close to all local amenities of Wollaston Village. Accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance with entry phone system and lift to second floor, private Entrance hall with built in airing cupboard, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM



HIGH STREET BELBROUGHTON

A two bedroom first floor apartment with private entrance situated in a highly desirable village location with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase to Private entrance hall, kitchen, inner hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and one parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM



UPPER ASHLEY STREET HALESOWEN

A one bedroom starter home situated in a quiet residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial gas central heating, driveway affording off road parking and enclosed side garden with patio area and storage shed. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

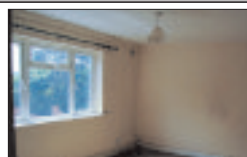
£440PCM



HAGLEY ROAD HALESOWEN

A deceptively spacious three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having night storage heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKING: NO

425PCM



SEYMOUR ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A two bedroom semi detached property with accommodation to comprise lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

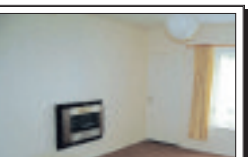
£420PCM



GORDON CRESCENT BRIERLEY HILL

A spacious one bedroom ground floor flat situated in popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge with feature gas fire, Kitchen/Diner, inner hall, bedroom and bathroom.. The property further benefits from Double Glazing, Foregarden and En-bloc Garage to rear. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C CHILDREN: NO DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM



BALLARAT WALK STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise Communal Entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, communal gardens and communal parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM



LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM



WILTSHIRE DRIVE

A well presented one bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall with staircase to first floor landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and Double Bedroom. The property further benefits from GCH, Double Glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395PCM



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NETHEREND LANE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and storage heaters. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM



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6-berth, cassette toilet, hand
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Everything else needed for
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hence price offers around
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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
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Kia's most powerful model yet

By Ian Donaldson

IT'S called managing expectation; being told before you drive a new car that it's not as fast and furious as you might expect. And it wasn't.

Instead Kia, with its most powerful model to date, has produced a handsome, sporty looking coupé that's quick enough for most people and sufficiently civilised not to become a bore as you drive deep into its seven-year warranty. Kia doesn't expect to sell shedloads of these two-door Procee'd GTs, and not all that many even when the more practical GT four-door hatch arrives early next year.

But with prices starting at a fiver less than £20,000 for a well equipped 'basic' version of the coupé, it's sure to attract enough attention to make dealers happy. Most owners are going to be happy too with a car that's effortlessly pleasing to drive, if not the tearaway terror that you can buy for a lot more

money from the likes of Ford and Volkswagen (think Focus ST and Golf GTI respectively).

Kia has taken the worldwide warm hatch template for the new GT. That means a turbo to boost engine power, bigger brakes and firmed suspension and a body made a bit more aggressive to behold.

Turbo

Inside, there's a set of sporty seats from Recaro, a sure sign the company takes its car seriously, and a lovely, readable dash display that springs from conventional speed to digital readout with turbo and torque displays at the press of a steering wheel button.

Add in air-con and big alloy wheels and the GT looks great value for money. Pay a bit more (£22,495) and you add climate control, satnav, heated seats and steering wheel, along with xenon headlights and auto wipers.

An even better equipped launch special edition (£23,995) is restricted to 50 sales in the UK and piles on a sunroof and red ambient lighting inside and your own numbered car plaque in the

cabin. This one comes in white only; the others add black and red to the palette.

For the present, though, let's concentrate on the more instantly appreciated side of the car. It's a practical beast; once past those big doors you'll find plenty of room in the rear for a couple of adults.

The boot looks huge and there's a sensible net to keep the groceries secure. It rides nicely and there's enough precision in gear change and brake pedal to impress a press-on driver.

The GT is built in Slovakia and feels thoroughly European. It would slot in alongside a Golf GTI, say, in the Silverstone car park and not look the least a poor relation.

It's another example of the astonishing journey Kia has taken from its native South Korea in just a few short years. A decade ago a car like the Procee'd GT would have seemed unthinkable from a company producing dull cars that sold on price alone.

Today, this latest Kia shows just why so many competitor companies around the world are upping their game in a relentless display of catch up, or die.



The new Procee'd GT coupé two-door. A more practical, four-door version arrives early next year

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Motoring

Honda and Citroen presented with European safety award



Safety first – Honda's CR-V scored the maximum five star rating in the Euro NCAP assessment

TWO family favourites have been awarded the maximum five-star rating by Euro NCAP, the internationally-recognised body responsible for assessing crash safety.

The rating scheme focuses on the vehicle's overall safety performance which gives consumers an easy to understand single score. The system considers occupant protection, child protection, pedestrian protection and the availability of driver aids.

The Honda CR-V and the Citroen C4 Picasso have both achieved the coveted five-star rating.

Furthermore, Euro NCAP is revealing two new Euro

NCAP Advanced rewards for further Autonomous Emergency Braking systems.

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Technology

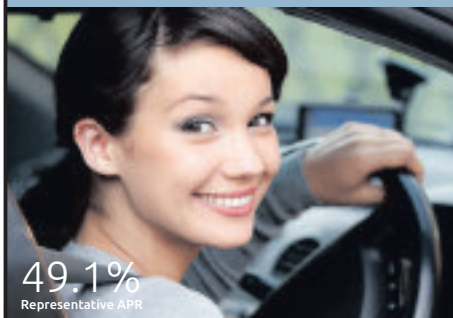
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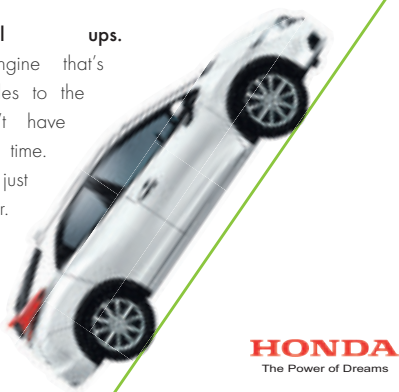
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Batters fail to hit form for seconds

Cricket

Streety 2nd XI 224-8
Stourbridge 2nd XI 93

IT was a case of back to the drawing board for Stourbridge second team skipper Mikhesh Patel after his team suffered their sixth defeat of the season.

Streety took the toll on the Stour bowlers through opening batsman David Yeend and No.3 Neil Curtis. Yeend was finally bowled by Dave Jones for 80 and Curtis had his stumps disturbed for 61 by 15-year-old Worcestershire academy prospect Abigail Houghton.

Worse was to follow for the Stour skipper as his team were skittled out for less than a ton thanks to the bowling of Mark Page, who took 4-30 off 11 overs.

Stourbridge 3rd XI 56-1
Vs Old Elizabethans 55

Rohit Sharma was the star of the show as Stourbridge's thirds powered to victory against Old Elizabethans.

Sharma bagged 6-24 off 12 overs as the visitors were rolled over for just 55.

Stour eased to victory in just 12 overs for the loss of one wicket.

Ryan Willetts ended 29 not out as the hosts recorded a much-needed win after a set of poor results so far.

Old Elizabethans 4th XI 165-9
Stourbridge 4th XI 206

Stourbridge fourths are still sitting pretty at the top of Division Five after a winning draw against Old Elizabethans.

After deciding to bat first, Ian Biddle produced his best knock of the season, scoring 53.

He was given impressive support late in the innings by skipper Daniel Haywood, who finished 65 not out.

Alex Dent provided some entertainment, smashing seven boundaries before being bowled.

Martin Bolton (29) and Yasein Baig (29) gave Old Elizabethans a sound start. But the top order collapsed to the line and length bowling of Biddle and the middle order crumbled to Haywood's medium pace.

Late resistance from James Allen (21) prevented Stour from yet another outright win.

Biddle's claimed 4-32 off 12 overs while Haywood took 3-38.

Stour are 18 points clear of second-placed Astwood Bank.

Clegg's aiming to get back up to speed

TALENTED teenager Max Clegg is hoping to recapture his best form after a frustrating two weeks with Dudley.

The 16-year-old has been a star performer in 2013, although his scores did decrease slightly in two clashes against a strong Wolves side over the past fortnight.

He remains pleased with his season so far, but he is aiming to get back to his best – starting when the former Cradley club welcome National League newcomers Kent to Monmore on July 30.

Clegg said: "Overall it's still going really well for me this

season. I've had a couple of double figure scores which I've been really pleased with and I've been scoring plenty of points.

"It's gone a bit downhill the last couple of weeks, but I've still been doing OK.

"Hopefully I'll get back up to where I was soon and do well over the second half of the season.

"It wasn't too bad for me against Wolves. I plugged away and scored a few points.

"I tried my best and I can't do any more than that, so I was happy even though I would have liked a few more points."

Dudley Heathens

Clegg made a guest appearance for King's Lynn and scored eight at Buxton on Sunday.

He's also appearing regularly on the junior development league to add more experience as he looks forward to an exciting second half of the season with Dudley.

Meanwhile, Cradley legend Greg Hancock was the hero as he guided the USA into the World Cup race-off in Prague tonight.

Denmark took the honours in Event Two of the competition at

Kings Lynn on Monday with Great Britain second, but the story of the night arguably came in the battle for third place as the USA produced a heroic performance to join the Brits plus Australia and Latvia in the race-off.

After years in the wilderness, the Americans, managed by another ex-Heathen Billy Hamill, emerged victorious ahead of injury-hit Sweden in only their second year back in the competition to book their place at the Marketa Stadium.

The winners progress to Saturday's final, also in Prague.

Hancock scored 16 of their 23 points including a priceless heat 14 victory while playing a double points joker to all but seal their progression.

Wolves rider Tai Woffinden was the star of the show for Great Britain with 18 points as they finished behind the power-packed Danes.

Denmark 49: Niels-Kristian Iversen 13, Nicki Pedersen 13, Michael Jepsen Jensen 12, Kenneth Bjørre 11.

Great Britain 35: Tai Woffinden 18, Chris Harris 12, Craig Cook 4, Edward Kennett 1.

USA 24: Greg Hancock 16, Ricky Wells 4, Ryan Fisher 3, Gino Manzares 1.

Sweden 18: Peter Ljung 11, Daniel Nermark 5, Dennis Andersson 2, Jonas Davidsson 0.

Wedge shines with bat and ball

A FINE all-round performance from Stuart Wedge boosted Hinley's Birmingham League Premier Division survival hopes as they eased to victory at Knowle and Dordridge.

The former Worcestershire seamer shone with bat and ball to lead the Stourbridge Road outfit to an impressive 116-run success.

Batting at number seven, Wedge top scored with 66 as Hinley piled up 226-7 from their 55 overs. Skipper Greg Wright (51) and Nathan Round (39) provided solid support with the bat.

Left-armers Wedge then took 3-19 with the ball as the hosts were routed for 110.

Seamer Danny Smith, off-spinner Ryan Brown and Round all took two wickets.

The victory lifted Hinley up to eighth, 21 points clear of the drop zone.

Wombourne are rock bottom of the table following an eight-wicket defeat to Wolverhampton.

Wombourne were undone by old-boy Adam Quiney who grabbed five wickets as his former club were dismissed for just 104.

Wolverhampton then needed just 13.2 overs to reach the target, with Worcestershire's Anesh Kapil 43 not out.

Old Hill started 12 points clear of the Division One drop zone after a losing draw against Dordridge.

Nitesh Patel hit a classy 85 as the Haden Hill side hung on at 189-8, after the visitors had compiled 253-6.

In Division Two, Rameez Aziz took four wickets and then struck 72 as Halesowen picked up a seven wicket win at home to Stratford.

Skipper's knock can't save Old Hill

OLD HILL saw their Staffordshire Cup hopes ended by a home defeat at the hands of Oulton.

Oulton pulled off the biggest surprise of round two as they secured a 14-run success at Haden Hill.

The visitors racked up 221-9 in their 45 overs. Dmitri Ratnayake and Nitesh Patel both claimed three wickets.

In reply, only skipper Danny Cox made an impression with the bat. Cox was left 60 not out as Old Hill were dismissed for 207 with 11 balls to spare.

McAuley is hungry for success in new season

ALBION defender Gareth McAuley is aiming to raise the bar as he embarks on his third season as a Premier League player.

The Baggies' reigning player of the year has proved a huge hit since arriving at The Hawthorns on a free transfer from Ipswich, but is targeting further improvement.

McAuley's impressive displays at the heart of the Albion defence earned him a new deal and has resulted in the 33-year-old Northern Ireland international setting new targets for the forthcoming campaign. "The contract doesn't change anything for me," said McAuley, during the club's pre-season trip to Austria.

"I'm putting pressure on myself now to go and have a better season than I've had in the last year and I certainly won't be taking my foot off the pedal.

"I am hungry from a personal point of view to be better and also for the team to be better and for the club to have a better season and move on.

"I've got bits and pieces in the back of my mind in terms of targets but I won't put them out there in case I don't hit them.

"I've raised the bar on myself and I expect myself to do well in pre-season and hopefully get a place in the team and do the business for the boys and the club again."

McAuley is taking nothing for granted in the battle for a first-team shirt and is braced for a threat to his place from England Under-21 defender Craig Dawson.

"He has had experience in the Premier League over the last couple of seasons," said McAuley.

"He is getting more to the stage where he's ready to

by Steve Madeley

play and he'll be fighting hard for a break. He will certainly be a threat and so will Gabi Tamas.

"I know Craig is very frustrated that he didn't make the breakthrough last year into the team and he will want to try to do that this year."

An eighth-place finish left the Baggies as 'best of the rest' behind the Premier League's established powerhouses clubs, leaving fans to ponder how their heroes can manage further improvement.

But McAuley insists Steve Clarke's men will set their sights higher, and he has already identified an area where he and his teammates can get better.

"When you look back and analyse it we had that period over Christmas where we didn't pick up many points and there were a lot of defeats," he said.

"We need to get the squad and dig deep and grind out results."



Gareth McAuley and Jonas Olsson battle for possession in the Austrian sun



Nicolas Anelka is on the run



Albion's players hit the training ground for their first session of their pre-season trip to Austria.

Pictures: AMA



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SPORT

Time to kick on
Albion ace is looking for improvement
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Running short
Stourbridge batters are sent packing
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Cresswell is off to a flyer for Glassboys

NEW man Jack Cresswell scored twice as Stourbridge began pre-season with a 2-0 win at Studley.

Young Glassboys keeper Ashley Green was the busier man early on as the hosts made the quicker start to a game played on the 3G pitch at the Beehive.

But Stour gradually began to find their rhythm. Striker Luke Benbow forced a good save from the home keeper and Will Richards fired wide from a good position before Cresswell opened the scoring on 33 minutes.

The summer signing from Sutton Coldfield Town showed superb individual skill to turn sharply and create space, before slotting a simple finish past the keeper.

Cresswell then made it two early in the second half after being played through on the right-hand side of the box by Drew Canavan.

Both sides made a raft of changes, which included a welcome return for the Glassboys of winger Aaron Drake, who missed the whole of last season through injury.

Striker James Spray, who spent a period on loan at Ambleside last season from AFC Telford, also featured in the Stourbridge side.

Marvin Nisbett hit the bar and Drake almost enjoyed a goal-scoring return but shot narrowly over as the Glassboys finished on top.

Impressive showing from Burke

KEVIN BURKE led home the Stourbridge Running Club contingent in the summer series event in Droitwich.

This race incorporated the Worcestershire 10k championships with 20 Stourbridge members taking part in a field of 187.

Burke clocked a time of 35:42 for 27th place overall and third in his age category, M50.

Next home was Rob Colman (36th) 39:55 and third was Christopher Blake (38th) 40:05.

Joan Clarke was first in her F50 category and Natalie Dellar was third in the F35 category. The 4th and final race in the series will be held at on August 7 at Cent Hills, off Hagley Wood Lane near Halesowen.

Fullwell bows out at the qualifying stage

by Craig Birch

STOURBRIDGE'S Nick Fullwell missed out on a spot at the PDC's German Darts Masters tournament in September after losing in the final qualifier.

Rugeley's Mark Hylton and Brierley Hill's Mark Jones didn't make it past their first qualifiers, with both defeated in the second round.

Young duo Matthew Dennant, from Bloxwich, and Wednesbury's Matthew Dicken also left the Barnsley Metrodome disappointed after falling short.

Players had to reach the third round to claim places at the event in Sindelfingen

from September 20-22, where £100,000 in prize money is up-for-grabs.

And Fullwell got that far only to be beaten 6-4 by Kevin McDine, after 'The Hero' had started his evening in style with a 6-0 second round whitewash of Lee Whitworth.

The luck of the draw didn't favour either Hylton or Jones, the former landing Steve West as the latter was paired with former BDO world championship finalist Dean Winstanley.

Hylton couldn't force a last leg decider but

had his chances against West, who recently reached the last 16 of the UK Open, while Jones lost by the same margin to Winstanley.

Both Dennant and Dicken had to come through the first round and play three times on the night, which they did so comprehensively to keep their dreams of Germany alive.

Dennant saw off Dan Russell 6-2 but then came unstuck against Paul Amos, who was clinical when it was mattered as he surged ahead of the 20-year-old and onto a 6-3 success.

Dicken dropped just a leg in a 6-1 victory over Paul Anthony but then came across John Bowles, who reached the last 32 of the PDC World Championship last year, and lost 6-3.

German Darts Masters qualifiers from event: Paul Amos, Kevin McDine, Michael Smith, Andy Jenkins, Mark Lawrence, James Hubbard, Darren Johnson, Daryl Gurney, Steve Brown, Josh Payne, Ricky Evans, Dennis Smith, William O'Connor, Ross Smith, Jamie Robinson, Joe Murnan, Alan Tabern, Michael Mansell, Ted Hankey, Mick Todd

Quality key for Jackett

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has vowed it's quality not quantity that counts as he strives to revamp his squad.

Jackett has failed in bids to land Crewe midfielder Luke Murphy and Manchester City winger Jeremy Helan, who have joined Championship sides Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday respectively.

But Jackett, who has added Bolton defender Sam Ricketts to the ranks, is confident he will improve his squad before the season starts.

"We have to always be competitive in the transfer market and you have to know the market and continually be in there," said Jackett.

"We'll continue to look to improve the squad and bring in good players."

"It will be quality rather than quantity that comes in."

Westwood nets new Villa deal

ASHLEY WESTWOOD has landed a bumper new deal with Villa.

A year into his Villa career, the 23-year-old midfielder has been rewarded for his impressive contribution in his debut Premier League season with a four-year contract.

While Westwood has signed, centre-half Richard Dunne has left for a one-year contract at QPR while Middlesbrough manager Tony Mowbray is pondering a move for Stephen Ireland.

Villa remain braced for the follow-up to Christian Benteke's transfer request in the form of a concrete bid from one of Spurs, Chelsea or Arsenal.

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PROMOTION PUSH SUFFERS A SETBACK

Stourbridge 1st XI 185 Vs Old Elizabethans 186 - 6
STOURBRIDGE'S Birmingham and District Premier League Division Two promotion hopes were dealt a blow as they slipped to defeat against Old Elizabethans.

There was bad news before a ball had been bowled for Stourbridge with first team regulars James Lawley and Andy Alexander both unavailable.

Old Elizabethan skipper Jamie Boyle opted to put the home side in after winning the toss.

Jitesh Patel was asked to step up as an opener alongside Alex Bingham.

Bingham was the first Stourbridge casualty, caught off Hemaka Pathiranga for a fine 32 in the 16th over.

The solid start crumbled to 63-2 when Taylor Pugh trapped Mathew Bradley leg before.

A recovery was launched by Patel and Richard Bradley that took the score from 63 to 96 in the 27th over.

Patel's spirited endeavours were ended by smart slip catch off the bowling of Denovan Ekstraal for 29.

Stour, needing a score of at least 250 on a scorcher of a day, suffered two blows in as they lost skipper Bradley and Adam Lawley, who was run-out by a direct hit from mid-on.

The hosts were 120-5 and it was left to 16-year-old Will Jennings to try to stage a recovery. Recalled from the second XI Jennings batted with confidence before being bowled by Pugh for 15.

Jones (22) followed immediately, when he fell to Joe Taylor.

James Wood, batting at No.8, irked out every run that he could until he was

Cricket

run out for 20 in the final over of the innings.

Stour made an ideal start when they had Joe Taylor caught behind for five in the fourth over.

After a shaky start, Boyle and Jonathan Miles started striking the ball with ease.

A bowling change reaped a reward when Miles's promising knock was ended on 18 by a brilliant caught and bowled from Ali Shah with the score on 74.

Another caught and bowled, from spinner James Wood to get rid of Denovan Ekstraal for 18, revived the home side's hopes of defending a low score.

Those hopes were boosted when the debutant spinner Feraz Irfan bowled Boyle for 66. With the Old Elizabethans 125-4 off 33 overs the match was evenly poised.

Home skipper Bradley had two spinners operating but Liam Ridings resisted the pressure and led the victory charge for OE's.

Stour came back with two more wickets - Sean Cairney LBW to Irfan and Will French bowled by Mathew Bradley - but Ridings was not to be denied and guided the visitors home with an unbeaten 54. Irfan took 2-33 off 10 overs.

Nicholls takes centre stage alongside Bumble



Bryn Nicholls, left, receives his certificate from David 'Bumble' Lloyd during the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge

OLDSWINFORD coach, Bryn Nicholls has been recognised for outstanding services to grassroots cricket.

Former England player and coach and Sky sports pundit David Lloyd presented Nicholls with a special coaching certificate during the first Ashes Test against Australia at Trent Bridge.

Nicholls was given the

exclusive opportunity to attend the clash as part of the Sky Sports ECB Coach Education programme.

A total of 14 coaches met with Lloyd on the pitch at Trent Bridge, all of whom were being acknowledged by the programme's 'Reward and Recognition' scheme.

Over one hundred coaches from across the country will be recognised

during the 2013 season, which comprises of a series of on-pitch presentations throughout the summer by various cricket legends and the Sky Sports broadcast team.

Nicholls has been a coach at Oldswinford for eight years, including coaching the current under-15 squad from when they were under-9. In 2012, he was the first volunteer to help in setting

up a disability section at the club which has gone from strength to strength.

Nicholls said: "It is wonderful to be recognised for my efforts, I am very grateful indeed."

"The programme provides funding that I have seen make a huge difference, especially in disability cricket. The help is fantastic and it adds quality to the coaching set up."

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